
Coastal Hazards Adaptation Team (CHAT) Work Session #41

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 16, 2022

2:00-4:00PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

1. Introductions

Liz Durfee - Planner and CHAT coordinator

Jennifer Hale - Hampton DPW (2:09)

Rayann Dionne - Seabrook-Hampton Estuary Alliance

Brianna O'Brien - Conservation Coordinator for Hampton

Natalie DiGeronimo - NH Department of Environmental Services

Jay Diener - Seabrook-Hampton Estuary Alliance

Keith Lessard - Planning Board Representative (2:15)

Stephen LaBranche – Resident Representative

Barbara Kravitz - Hampton Beach Area Commission (2:15)

Tom Bassett - Resident Representative

Bob Ladd - Village District Representative

James Waddell - Board of Selectmen Representative

Jason Bachand - Town Planner

Kristin Howard – NH Department of Environmental Services

Guests:

Paul Roche - Resident

2. Approve meeting minutes from July 2022

Approval of minutes was deferred to the next meeting.

3. Relevant Flood Updates

Tom Bassett:

- Shared photos and information about flooding on Greene St. and Gentian Rd. on August 11-14th.
- High tides exceeded 10' feet every day during the week of August 9-August 15. There was no rainfall that week but there was a full moon. The streets were flooded each morning and then dried up.
- There was discussion about monitoring the speed at which waters receded. Jen Hale noted that she appreciates the photos and having the time and date makes them especially helpful.

Jason Bachand:

- Noted that the Master Plan update continues and that the consultant is in the writing phase.
- On Thursday Aug 25, Jason will present the flood regulations audit to CAW Talks.

Non-member update:

Mr. Roche:

- Described the flooding in-front of his house.
- Offered to send photos of the flooding to Ms. Durfee.

4. Recommendations Discussion:

Continued Discussion of CHAT's recommendation: Amend Town of Hampton Code Section 805-9(M)(1) to lower the threshold for authorized parking in municipal parking lots when tides are in excess of 9.7 feet (as opposed to 10.0 feet) (*Section 805-9(M)*).

Ms. Durfee

- Informed CHAT members that selectmen do have the power to adjust code.
- She is currently compiling information on outreach that was done regarding placards.
 - 39 placards were issued in 2022.

Ms. Hale

- Suggested that CHAT recommend that information be added to the town website regarding the code.

Ms. Howard

- Shared an explanation on how 9.7 feet was calculated and how it can be justified to the selectmen.

Mr. Bassett

- Suggested that the recommendation be reduced from 9.7 feet to 9.5 feet.
 - Ms. O'Brien agreed.

Mr. Waddell

- Suggested that any ideas regarding parking be brought to the select board.

Ms. Durfee

- Stated that the language regarding where residents can park may need to be clarified.

Ms. Hale

- Stated that outreach and education regarding placards needs to be improved.

Mr. Ladd

- Invited CHAT members to contact him if they would like to come to the September meeting for the Village District to talk about the ordinance.

Mr. Bassett

- Suggested creating a map of areas that flood to aid in clarifying this ordinance.

CHAT agrees that the recommendation should be adjusted. Ms. Durfee will adjust the working recommendation to say 9.5 instead of 9.7 feet.

5. List of Recommendations for the Town

A. Flood Risk Disclosure (discussion of draft recommendation)

Ms. DiGeronimo gave an update:

- FEMA has proposed federal policy changes to congress.
- One proposal deals with requiring state flood risk disclosures.

Ms. Kravitz

- Suggested that the language be edited to reflect the intent of this recommendation aimed at the state level.

Ms. O'Brien

- Suggested that a link be added to the recommendations document to a more full document with additional information.

Ms. DiGeronimo

- Suggested that all recommendations that are more focused on the state-level be moved into a new category.

Mr. Ladd

- Noted that this recommendation does not acknowledge the future and suggested that it should.

Ms. Kravitz

- Suggested adding a short explanation to the top of the document highlighting the fact that some recommendations may be for the town and others may be higher level.

CHAT will use the language “when appropriate the town should advocate for” in place of “explore”.

6. Review Draft CHAT Strategic Engagement Plan (attached) and prioritize engagement activities

Ms. Durfee presented information from the sub-committee meeting:

- There is about \$6000 available through the funding SHEA currently has to implement outreach.
- Ms. Durfee will fill out ‘Priority Near-Term Strategies’ following this meeting.
- Key Audience Analysis: Key demographic information and geographic flooding information along with stakeholders CHAT may be trying to reach.
- Presented a recommended outreach approach and timeline:
 - Web presence and contact list.
 - increase social media presence.
 - Quarterly Newsletter.
 - Member messages - videos of CHAT members that can be shared sharing information on what CHAT is doing.
 - Postcard mailings.
 - Mr. LaBranche asked where the mailing list will come from.
 - Ms. Durfee said that the intent would be to use a company, but noted that the associated cost may not be feasible at this time.
 - Social Event

- Webinar and dialog
- Participatory story map. People can share information and photos that can be added to a story map. Visual information.
- Event with school - collaborate with some teachers or classes to share information about CHAT and/or CHAT's recommendations.
- In-depth round tables to refine and implement recommendations.

Ms. DiGeronimo

- Wonders if there is a way to denote the end of the grant period (June 2023).
- Asked Ms. Durfee to make some recommendations and color code items on the current timeline that would fit within the \$6,000 budget and which ones would require additional funding.

Ms. Hale

- Noted that the community is very diverse with different wants as far as communication.

Mr. Roche

- Asked if there is a formal goal for CHAT.
 - Ms. Durfee will share the Key Objectives with Mr. Roche.

Ms. DiGeronimo

- Stated that she appreciates the mix of options that were presented. Noted that there is no one-size fits all strategy.
- Noted that they finally got a notification from NOAA to pilot the coastal resilience coordinator position in-town.

Ms. Kravitz

- Stated that getting information out and creating conversation in the community is something that CHAT could be very helpful in.
- Noted that the costs associated with many of the suggested items would be high due to the technical assistance that would be required.

Ms. Durfee will look over the documents and revise them to reflect the needs of other on-going efforts.

1. Next meeting: September 20, 2022

2. Adjourn