
Coastal Hazards Adaptation Team (CHAT) Work Session #38

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 20, 2022

2:00-4:00PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

1. Introductions

Liz Durfee - Planner and CHAT Coordinator

Jennifer Hale - Hampton Department of Public Works (DPW)

Rayann Dionne - Seabrook-Hampton Estuary Alliance

Katherine Harake - Budget Committee Representative

Brianna O'Brien - Conservation Coordinator for Hampton

Natalie DiGeronimo - NH Department of Environmental Services Coastal Program

Jay Diener - Seabrook-Hampton Estuary Alliance

Keith Lessard - Planning Board Representative

Barbara Kravitz - Hampton Beach Area Commission

Tom Bassett - Resident Representative

Bob Ladd - Village District Representative

Joe Lynch - Hampton Department of Public Works

Jason Bachand - Town Planner

Kristin Howard - NH Department of Environmental Services Coastal Program

Brendan Lynch - NH Department of Environmental Services Coastal Program

Lucy Perkins - NH Department of Environmental Services Coastal Program

2. Approve meeting minutes July 2022

Ms. Durfee shared proposed adjustments to the minutes submitted via email by Mr. Basset.

Mr. Bassett MOTIONED to approve the minutes as amended. SECONDED by Ms. O'Brien. Vote: All in favor except Ms. Harake, who abstained.

3. Meeting Time

Ms. Durfee proposed adjusting CHAT meeting times from 2 - 4 PM to 1- 3 PM. She asked CHAT members to share their thoughts and noted that she will get opinions from CHAT members who are not currently present.

4. Review Draft CHAT Strategic Engagement Plan and prioritize engagement activities

Ms. Durfee met with Mr. Diener, Ms. Dionne, and Ms. DiGeronimo after the last meeting. They discussed which strategies make the most sense given the budget and the timeline. She presented a Proposed Priority Action Plan and Schedule based on that conversation:

1. Social Media:

- Mr. Ladd offered to post to the Hampton Beach Village District Facebook page and invited CHAT members to come to their monthly meetings. Meetings are 5:30 PM the second Wednesday of each month.
2. *Newsletter:*
- CHAT members voiced support for coordinating with the Town Hall to piggyback on existing newsletters.
 - Ms. O'Brien suggested that the Conservation Commission dedicate a page to CHAT for the monthly newsletter. She suggested that the Coastal Resilience Coordinator could be in charge of the page and submit it to Ms. O'Brien.
 - Ms. Hale noted that the DPW does a quarterly newsletter and would be open to incorporating CHAT updates.
 - Ms. Dionne suggested brainstorming ways for all CHAT members to contribute to the monthly newsletter at a future meeting.
3. *Fact Card:*
- Ms. DiGeronimo noted that In the Know Hampton does a good job summarizing the town warrant articles each year. She felt that would be a good model to follow for the fact card recommendations.
4. *Story Map:*
- Mr. Diener asked how much effort it will take to create and keep it current. Ms. Durfee said that the effort depends on what they want to put into it. The more interactive they want to make it, the bigger the lift.
 - Ms. O'Brien asked how CHAT's mission would translate to a story map. Ms. Durfee suggested using the story map to display information on sea-level rise and the extent of flooding current and/or future. Ms. Durfee envisioned it as a place where they could talk about CHAT and show what the group has accomplished, in addition to displaying the fact cards and information about the recommendations. The first priority would focus on visuals.
5. *Member Message Videos:*
- Ms. Durfee asked if members would be willing to participate in short videos, otherwise this strategy would not be identified as a priority. A few members agreed.
6. *General Comments and Questions*
- Ms. Durfee asked for opinions from CHAT members regarding in-person events and roundtables that were discussed at previous CHAT meetings.
 - Mr. Ladd noted that the beach business community is not generally around in the winter. Events would be better in the spring. He suggested the CHAT emphasize sustainability regarding the business community.
 - Ms. Durfee will change the proposed date to springtime.

- Mr. Diener mentioned that SHEA will be holding a 'Coastal Resilience Fair' in the late spring. That may be a great opportunity to have a presence.
- CHAT members support the proposed timeline and strategy.
- Ms. Howard emphasized the importance of making the public aware of CHAT meetings.
- Ms. Perkins noted that it may be worth holding the postcard mailer until after the November election. Ms. Durfee agreed. Ms. Durfee noted that the cost of the mailers would not be feasible at this time.
- Ms. Kravitz suggested collecting usage and visual data along the way and summarizing at the end of the year.

Ms. Durfee asked for CHAT members to send her ideas for how to collect contacts for a mailing list. She noted that CHAT would want to get permission from people before adding them to a mailing list.

Ms. Durfee asked CHAT members what type of information they would like to share on social media.

- Mr. Diener said that any information about CHAT and the resources that the group is using would be helpful.
- Mr. Bassett suggested informing followers about what other communities are experiencing.
- Ms. O'Brien wondered if it would be appropriate to share information and solicit input. Also, create a tab that consolidates archived resources for people to go back to. Ms. Durfee suggested using the story map for that.
- Mr. Bachand suggested using 'fun facts' about resiliency to engage followers.
- Ms. Hale noted that the website directly posts town news to Facebook. The town only responds to direct questions with concrete information (dates, times, locations, etc..)
- Mr. Diener is unsure that CHAT would need to abide by the same rules as the municipality. He suggested setting up some guidelines.
- Ms. O'Brien noted that comments create engagement and increase visibility. She suggested finding a balance.
- Mr. Ladd noted that responding to social media comments can be incredibly time consuming.

Estimated Costs

- Ms. Durfee reviewed estimated costs of proposed items.

At running time 1:20:24 Ms. Harake and Mr. Ladd left the meeting.

5. Hampton-Seabrook Estuary Management Plan

Ms. Dionne shared an update on the Estuary Management Plan.

- The project is currently funded by grants.
- The project is estimated to take 18 months to complete.

- They have contracted with FB Environmental, an environmental consulting firm, to prepare the plan.
- Ms. Dionne reviewed the Estuary Management Plan's Vision Statement.

Mr. Bassett noted a typo in the visioning statement. Ms. Dionne stated that they will review it.

Mr. Diener shared an update on the Estuary Management Plan Management Objectives.

- He reviewed the Management Objectives.
- There are 5 goals related to the health of the estuary.
- Actions items are being developed and will be added under each goal to help guide communities in protecting and preserving the estuary.
- The Estuary Management Plan is scheduled to be completed by the end of this year.
- Formal presentations of the completed plan are scheduled for early 2023.
- SHEA will also work with each of the communities to provide assistance in adoption, implementation, and completion of the plan.

Mr. Bassett asked how the presentations are being received by the three towns. Mr. Diener stated that it has all been very positive. The big concern is about who is going to coordinate this work and make it happen.

Ms. Durfee suggested incorporating information on who the partners are and what the funding sources are could be helpful in convincing the targeted groups to buy in.

6. Relevant Flood Updates

Mr. Bachand gave a flood update:

- The PREPA Grant Project has concluded at this point.
- They are shifting over to the Floodsmart Seacoast technical assistance effort.
- They will refine and vet the 4 sea-level rise options along with performing a comprehensive update of the floodplain management ordinance.
- They are looking to expand the small project committee that they had under the PREPA project.
- Master Plan consultants are still working on drafting the final plan, which should be ready by mid-November.

Ms. Dionne:

- SHEA will host a salt march tour on October 15th from 10 AM - 11 AM. There are limited spaces available to join.
- Through the Technical Assistance Grant, SHEA is Partnering with Rockingham Planning Commission and trying to establish a similar group to CHAT in Seabrook. It will be called the 'Coastal Resilience Team in Seabrook'. This is in its early stages.

Mr. Bassett:

- Shared slides with photos of flooding at Greene Street and Meadow Pond-Gentian Rd from the month of September.
- He reported that he is waiting on results of NHDES water quality tests to determine if there are bacteria in the water.

Ms. DiGeronimo:

- The Board of Select People did authorize the town manager to enter into a grant agreement with DES to receive the grant funding for the Coastal Resilience Coordinator position. The paperwork is in motion. The town is hoping to post the position soon.
- Ms. Hale added that hopefully the position would be posted by the end of the week.

7. Recommendations Discussion

This agenda item will be deferred to the next meeting in the interest of time.

8. Next meeting: TBD

Ms. Durfee will send out an email.

9. Adjourn