
Coastal Hazards Adaptation Team (CHAT) Work Session #49

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

1:00-3:00PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Introductions

Jason Bachand – Hampton Town Planner

Tori Bamford – Hampton Coastal Resilience Coordinator

Tom Bassett – Hampton Resident

Jay Diener - Hampton Conservation Commission

Rayann Dionne - Seabrook-Hampton Estuary Alliance (SHEA)

Mike Edgar – Hampton Representative

Jennifer Hale - Hampton Department of Public Works (DPW)

Mikaela Hemming – UNH SeaGrant

Kristin Howard –NH Department of Environmental Services Coastal Program (NHDESCP)

Barbara Kravitz - Hampton Beach Area Commission

Bob Ladd – Hampton Beach Village District

Keith Lessard – Hampton Planning Board (joined at 1:30 pm)

Chris Muns – Hampton Representative (left at 2:30 pm)

Brianna O'Brien – Hampton Conservation Coordinator

Lucy Perkins – NHDESCP (left at 2:00 pm)

Larry Quinn - Budget Committee

2. Hampton Hazard Mitigation Plan

Ms. Hubard provided an overview of the recently completed Hampton Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). The plan has been submitted to FEMA and awaiting final approval. A copy of the slide presentation is attached. Following the presentation CHAT members asked the following questions.

- Ms. Howard asked about the approval timeline. KH – asked about the approval timeline
 - Ms. Hubard responded that the plan was submitted in September of 2022. About a month ago received a communication that it was approved, but still waiting on the official approval letter from FEMA.
- Mr. Diener asked how HMP recommendation progress is tracked/monitored.
 - Mr. Bachand noted that the HMP recommendations are cross-referenced in the Master Plan and can be tracked via that process. The Master Plan Implementation Committee will also provide additional oversight. One HMP-recommended project to update the aquifer protection district was completed upon March 2023 Town vote.
- Ms. Hale added that many departments, such as Police, Fire, DPW, Planning, and Conservation, contributed to the plan, covering a range of hazards beyond flooding. HMP tracks and reviews progress every five years. This was her second time working on an update, and she noticed an increase in public health measures given the pandemic and changes in project priorities.

3. Hampton State Reps – Listening Session

- Chris Muns – House Representative

Rep Muns shared information about his different focus areas and committee participation

 - House Science, Energy, and Technology Committee (member)
 - The focus on energy overlaps with addressing climate change.
 - The [2009 State-wide Climate Action Plan](#) needs updating. Worked on a bill to support the update that failed. Recently learned that NHDES is working to secure funding from EPA to a plan update.
 - Ms. Howard confirmed that NHDES is applying for funding from EPA’s Air Division.
 - Coakley Landfill Subcommittee (chair)
 - Study environmentally triggered cancer and diseases associated with exposures to Coakley Landfill contaminants
 - First public meeting this afternoon at Hampton Academy
 - Recently toured landfill and wants to learn more about the extent of discharge to Little River and potential impacts on Hampton’s water supply.
 - Focus Area – Identifying and supporting Hampton’s implementation and mitigation needs
 - Wants to better understand Hampton’s priorities, funding needs, and to what extent funding has been identified. Is there a funding gap he can help to fill?
 - Even though state-level funding is tight, can still find money to support important projects. Having a pre-identified list helps provide justification. Willing to raise the red flag on non-critical projects and help redirect those funds to address more crucial needs.
 - Concerned about flooding in the Hampton Harbor area, such as road flooding, and what can we do about it?
 - Mr. Diener asked about the best way for CHAT to stay in touch with House Reps and the best time(s) of the year to hear about needs.
 - Rep Muns responded that fall is the best time for putting together a legislation request
 - Rep Edgar noted that depending on the request, it could be an individual bill or something to be added to a capital budget or a 10-year plan.
- Mike Edgar – House Representative

Rep Edgar shared information about his different focus areas and committee participation

 - Public Works and Highway Committee (member since 2016)
 - 2-year budget cycle
 - Governor’s Capital Budget Plan (brick and mortar for the state)
 - Part of the plan review committee.
 - Funding is sourced through bonds for around \$130M over 2 years.
 - Usually, about \$1B of work is requested
 - Imperative to go to the hearings to advocate for what you want to be included
 - Noted that the 2021 budget included several NHDES requests that were not approved, but this committee was able to get a few added to the budget, such as funding for the Comprehensive Coastal Flood Risk Model for NH (\$350K). This project also utilized Federal Funds.

- Ms. Howard appreciated the support. The funding allocated by the State was used as match for a \$350K Federal National Coastal Resilience Fund grant (project total - \$700K). DES contracted with Woods Hole Group to perform the modeling. The effort builds off the methods used in the Hampton neighborhood modeling effort and expands it to NH's coast. Model development is underway with upcoming key decisions about sea-level rise and storm surge scenarios. Ms. Hale is part of the advisory committee among other representatives from local and state agencies. The anticipated completion date is the end of 2023 or early 2024. Aidan Barry at the NHDES CP is the primary contact for this project.
 - Capital budget funds harbor dredging. The Hampton-Seabrook bridge project will increase the bridge's span and enable the Army Corp to bring in larger equipment for dredging.
 - Recent Federal Infrastructure funding is being used to support the Coastal Greenway Rails to Trails and Hampton-Seabrook bridge projects.
- The 10-Year Highway Improvement Plan.
 - Recommends the Town submit eligible transportation-related projects to the Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC). They rank them and then provide a list to NHDOT. These projects are funded through federal government funding, and advocating the project's importance is key.
 - Ms. Hale also participates on the 10-year Plan Committee along with many other municipalities and state agencies. Noted that RPC does a great job of tracking projects. Recently submitted a Winnacunnet Rd project. Commented that having Ms. Bamford on board to important for cataloging everything that's going on to ensure we are re-spin the wheel and improving Hampton's ability to submit funding requests when needed.
- Noteworthy Current/Ongoing Projects
 - NHDOT 2022 Resilience Grant projects which included culvert improvements.
 - There is a need to further assess the impacts of the Black River as it enters Hampton Harbor on the Seabrook side. Previous efforts to keep the river channel from shifting appear to be exacerbating bank erosion and the deposition of sand in the harbor channel.
 - Ms. Hale's understanding is that the Army Corps of Engineers has initial funding (\$50K) under Section 107 (small harbors program) to develop a federal interest determination that assesses the economic feasibility of a hydrodynamic study to determine the causes of the shoaling and how to alleviate it or continue dredging (5-7 years).
 - Mr. Diener shared that at a recent Seabrook Planning Board meeting, a member wished that the harbor could be dredged on a regular basis instead of emergency based.
 - Rep Edgard agreed that maintenance dredging is needed. It's a long process to get the dredging done. It was just dredged, and the Seabrook side is already seeing areas fill back in.
 - Ms. Hale provided a link to Dredge Task Forces' April meeting minutes. There's a report out on 4-5 Hampton-related projects
<https://www.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt341/files/documents/20210414-dmtf-minutes.pdf>

- Ms. Kravitz, at the HBAC’s symposium 2 years ago, one point that was made was that when dredge, they are capable of depositing sand to replenish local beaches. That was done a couple of years ago. It’s promising and a good project to follow. The repurposing of the dredge material should be in Hampton before going elsewhere.
- Rep Edgar noted that the type of dredging equipment influences how the sand can be transported to new locations. Need to arrange for the placement ahead of time – it seems more economical to keep it close.
- Ms. Howard shared that, given Rep Muns’ and Edgar’s request for priorities and its key role in informing their work - Is there a next step, either for CHAT and/or with others, to develop a list of Hampton priorities? What role can CHAT’s recommendations play in developing this Hampton-specific list?
 - Rep Edgar – if there’s a resiliency plan and then prioritizing, it would be beneficial.

4. Approve March 2023 meeting minutes

Mr. Diener moved to approve the meeting minutes with edits provided by Mr. Basset.

Motion by Mr. Basset

Vote: All favor with Ms. O’Brien, Mr. Lessard, and Mr. Ladd

5. Relevant Flood Updates

Mr. Bachand (Planning Board/Planning Department)

- Flood Smart Seacoast project
 - Working on updating the floodplain ordinance to include higher floodplain standards.
 - Potential options developed by RPC in coordination with NHDES.
 - Next advisory committee meeting on Thursday, April 20th.
- Master Plan Implementation committee will start in June. Requesting letter of interest from residents

Ms. Kravitz (HBAC)

- HBAC Master Plan Update
 - Draft plan underway
 - Town Hall Session - Sea Shell Complex on April 27th at 11 am. Presentation on the general concepts. There will be at least two site visits, accessed by walking, and what kinds of things are important to address.
 - HBAC Meeting April 27th evening - the consultant will present a summary of Town Hall.
 - Planning another public meeting in May.
 - HBAC will review the draft report at their May 26th meeting. Anticipated completion and HBAC approval in June.
- HBAC Master Plan Website
 - Website design is also underway, identifying content and working towards a layout and new logo.
 - Storyboard and walk-through by the end of April with a functional/live website by June.

Mr. Bassett (Gentian/Meadow Pond/Greene St Neighborhood)

- In January and March, NHDES staff collected and tested the flood waters from their neighborhood streets. Water analysis shows high levels of bacteria.
- Flood Ready Neighborhood Program
 - Mr. Bassett is the point person for his neighborhood to help engage neighbors to participate in the program.
 - The objective is to increase their collective flood hazard awareness and support the development of neighborhood-scale mitigation strategies. He's working with a support team to develop a statement to gauge his neighbor's interest in participating. Hopefully, this will help build a more resilient neighborhood.

Ms. O'Brien (Conservation Commission/CHAT Facebook Team)

- Conservation Commission released a Request for Proposals (RFPs) to develop a Natural Resource Inventory. The Commission is in the process of reviewing RFPs. Once a consultant is selected, they will submit a grant proposal to Piscataqua Region Environmental Planning Assessment (PREPA) for funding.
- CHAT's Facebook page is live. Thanks to Ms. Bamford and Ms. Hale for helping out. The goal is to have one weekly post related to CHAT's recommendations – news article or educational post. Helpful to tie everything back to who CHAT is. Ms. O'Brien gave a walk-through of the Facebook page and encouraged everyone to send along content. Also interested in recommended pages or accounts to follow.
- The NHDES CP is preparing an "America the Beautiful" grant application, which includes three different marsh restoration/resilience projects – one project is ditch remediation in Hampton. Great opportunity to perform meaningful work in Hampton. The Commission is drafting a letter of support.

Ms. Howard (NHDES CP)

- Reminder that the Coastal Resilience Grant period is open, and applications are due by May 26th. Willing to discuss and brainstorm project ideas.
- Hampton Tide Gauge - Working with the gauge manager to develop a new datum. The current datum is based on mean low low water (mllw), which is useful for boating and beach-going but does not correlate to the land survey datum in NAVD88. The new gauge-specific datum will be published following a technical review. The effort has found that Hampton's mean high water (mhw) is at about 4.9 ft NAVD88 which is about 1 ft higher than mhw at nearby gauges like Fort Point. This 1-ft difference could be related to the hydrodynamics of the area and sea-level rise. The new datum will help ensure survey plans in Hampton more accurately reflect current water levels.

6. Social Media Policies

Ms. Dionne reminded CHAT that the shorter version of the Facebook rules was adopted at the last meeting. She recommended approving the longer, more detailed version as a "working draft" to be revisited in 4 to 6 months after the Facebook page has been up and running. CHAT could then evaluate its usefulness and whether any updates or revisions are needed.

Mr. Diener motioned to approve the longer Facebook guidelines version as a "working draft".

Mr. Lessard seconded the motion

Vote – all were in favor

7. Recommendations Discussion Continued
Postponed to next meeting.
8. Next meeting: May 16, 2022, 1pm-3pm
9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

HAMPTON HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE 2023

Coastal Hazards Adaptation Team
April 18, 2023





HAZARD MITIGATION PLANS

...are prepared and adopted by communities with the primary purpose of **identifying, assessing, and reducing the long-term risk to life and property** from hazard events.

...reviewed, approved and required by FEMA.

FEMA REQUIRED / SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

- HMP required for eligibility for some Federal Disaster Funds & Grants.
- 7 Elements required to be approved by FEMA:
 - Plan Process
 - Risk Assessment
 - Mitigation Strategy
 - Plain Maintenance
 - Plan Update
 - Plan Adoption
 - High Hazard Potential Dams
- Hampton Editions: 2004, 2010, 2016, 2022/23



BASIC OUTLINE OF HAMPTON HMP

- Chapter 1: Introduction
- Chapter 2: Community Profile / NFIP Statistics
- Chapter 3 Hazard Identification (Definition, Location, Extent, Impact, Past Events)
- Chapter 4: Critical Facilities / Estimate Potential Loss
- Chapter 5: Capability Assessment / Existing Mitigation Efforts/Plan/Programs.
- Chapter 6: Mitigation Projects
- Chapter 7: Adoption, Implementation & Monitoring



2023 UPDATE FOCUS

Be consistent with **State of NH**
Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Review/Add Goals: Climate change,
public education and continuity of
operations/government.

Update Plan with **Past Hazards**

Integration with other coastal
planning efforts.

Update mitigation projects
completed and add **new projects**.

LET'S LOOK AT THE PLAN



QUESTIONS??

"It takes as much energy to wish as it does to plan."

~Eleanor Roosevelt





THANK YOU

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