

HAMPTON COASTAL HAZARDS ADAPTATION TEAM (CHAT)

August 2024 UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

A summary of updates and announcements relevant to flooding, coastal hazards, and coastal planning intended to be shared with Hampton boards, commissions, committees, departments, and the public. Visit <http://shea4nh.org/coastal-hazards-adaptation-team-chat/> for information about CHAT.

Hampton Voluntary Elevation and Property Acquisition Pilot

Jennifer Hale, Director, DPW

- The home elevation program is the current focus. Property acquisition is not the focus at this time. The previous DES grant provided assistance and a framework with which to roll out the home elevation program. The current rollout is slow because of manpower capacity. A new grant proposal was recently submitted to address the manpower capacity and expand the program. The RPC will provide assistance.
- Recent steps forward include drafting a letter of intent to FEMA. A letter of intent to FEMA is a requirement of the home elevation program.
- The program requires homeowners, in the absence of other funding sources, to fund the elevation and then seek reimbursement by FEMA. Hampton's role is to be the intermediary to provide assistance to applicants, work with FEMA and Homeland security on checklists, and submit applications to FEMA on behalf of homeowners. Applicants must be selected and there is no guarantee of selection. If the applicant is selected, Hampton will work with them to complete the process. Interested homeowners will be selected via lottery and will receive assistance with applications.
- Hampton residents have requested information from staff. Some of this information is being updated on the Town website. There will be a FAQ section as well.

Brianna O'Brien, Conservation Coordinator

- Residents who reach out for information are added to a contact list so they can receive future updates. An internal file for applicable properties is also maintained and updated with information provided by property owners when they reach out. The goal is to ensure that Hampton residents who apply for the program have a competitive application to increase the chances of being accepted. FEMA has certain eligibility requirements which property owners must meet to be eligible for the program.

Coastal Resilience Coordinator (CCR) Position

Brianna O'Brien, Conservation Coordinator

- The recently awarded Coastal Resilience Grant will build upon some of the goals and the groundwork accomplished by the previous CCR. There is an extension to the original CCR grant that has remaining funds, which will be used to accomplish the remainder of the grant scope.

Jennifer Hale, Director, DPW

- There is a need for a full-time CCR position, but the funding needs to be determined. The intent is to move this conversation forward in the near future.

Flood Parking Placard Program

Liz Durfee, CHAT Coordinator

- The Town Manager's office reports that, 17 placards have been issued since July 8, the date that the Town Code was amended to allow parking in Town lots at tide of 9.5 ft MLLW, rather than 10.0 ft. Eighty-eight placards have been issued in 2024.

Tom Bassett, Resident Representative, added that 110 placards were issued last year per the Town Manager's office.

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High Priority Master Plan Implementation Actions

Jason Bachand, Town Planner

- The Master Plan Committee recently conducted an exercise regarding zoning which was identified as an overall top priority. Another exercise was conducted regarding responsible parties. The plan has five central themes which were prioritized by year. 58 resilience action items were prioritized with some action items identified as the highest priority. Some action items have been addressed but will be readdressed in the future, some are ongoing, and some need more focus. CHAT members are welcome to review the list and provide feedback on prioritization.

Flood Ready Neighborhoods Project

Annie Cox, Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership

- On Wednesday, August 21, there is an Emergency Preparedness Workshop facilitated by Flood Ready Neighborhoods and Seacoast Public Health Network at the Seabrook Library.
- Hampton Flood Preparedness Day will be October 4.

Kings Highway Project

Jennifer Hale, Director, DPW

- This project is designed to help alleviate flooding in the Meadow Pond area. The project is out for bid. There may be a need for additional funding, which is being worked on currently.
- Aquarian Water Company is also doing a project, their project is out for bid as well.

Other Flood Updates

Tom Bassett, Resident Representative

- July had a notable lack of flooding despite predicted high tides. The exception was July 24 with partial flooding. August 4 experienced flooding related to high tides and rain. August 19 experienced partial flooding and August 20 experienced typical flooding related to high tides and rain.
- DES has been conducting water quality testing with results showing high enterococcus bacteria levels. The funding is ending, with final testing likely in September.
- DPW replaced weathered signs warning residents about flood water contamination hazards.
- The August 13 Flood Ready Neighborhood meeting was well attended by residents and local and state conservation, wetland, and drainage specialists. Ms. Hale presented information about the King's Highway Drainage Project. There was discussion about berm construction, and it was deemed not feasible due to logistical and financial obstacles. There was discussion about restoring 30 acres of degraded wetlands north of High Street for the purpose of flood mitigation. This area does not include the Grist Mill Dam. The area was a wetland that has been invaded by woodland. The area is private property. A petition was signed opposing a parking variance for 931 Ocean Blvd. The public parking area is the same area used by beach residents and used during flooding with the placard program.

Brianna O'Brien, Conservation Coordinator

- Met with the Manchester Street Flood Ready Neighborhoods group recently. As a result of this discussion, there will be a Flood Preparedness Day on October 5. This event will allow residents to receive sandbags at the transfer station and receive pallets for elevating furniture in their homes. Volunteers will help with Flood Preparedness day and assist residents in preparing for winter storms. Forms are available online on Town web pages.

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Kate Bashline, Resident Representative (via email)

- The “[Become a Changemaker for the Lamprey River and Great Bay](#)” program is open to interested participants. This is an advocacy training program that applies throughout the Seacoast area.

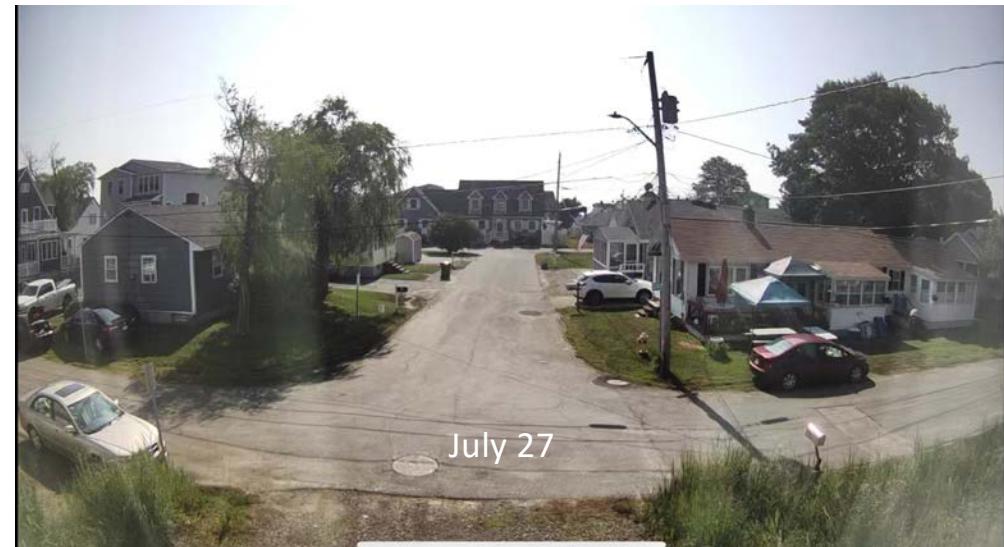
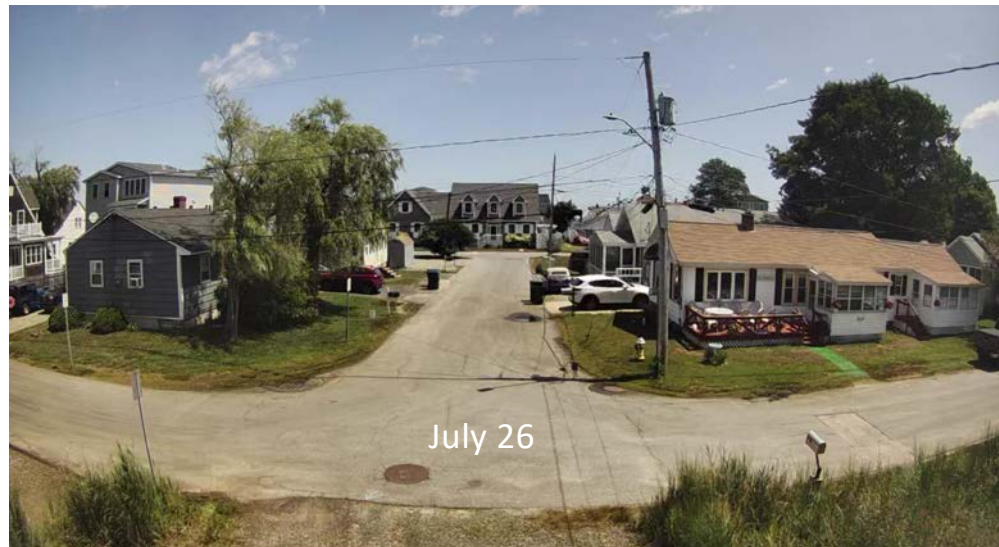
Brianna O’Brien, Conservation Coordinator, added that the advocacy sessions will prioritize residents in the Great Bay watershed area with a cap of 25 people. Interested residents outside the watershed area can apply to attend if the session cap of 25 isn’t reached.

CHAT Flood Update Meadow Pond Neighborhood August 2024





July's Surprise Lack of Floods



No major flooding despite high monthly tide levels

Date	Predicted High Tide	Observed High Tide	Flooding
July 20	9.5 ft	10.1 ft	N
July 21	--	10.0 ft	N
July 22	9.8 ft	10.29 ft	N
July 23	10.0 ft	10.46 ft	N
July 24	10.1 ft	10.52 ft	partial
July 25	9.9 ft	10.21 ft	N
July 26	9.6 ft	9.80 ft	N
July 27	9.4 ft	9.73 ft	N

August 2024 flooding

4 August 2024 →



19 August 2024



20 August 2024

August 2024 actual and predicted floods

Date	Predicted High Tide (MLLW)	Observed High Tide (MLLW)	Rainfall	Flooding
August 4	8 ft (?)	9.84 ft	0.183 in	Y
August 19	10.1	10.27 ft	0.282 in	Y
August 20	9.1 ft (?)	11.16 ft	0	Y
August 21	10.3 ft			
August 22	10.2 ft			
August 23	10.0 ft			
August 24	9.8 ft			
August 25	9.6 ft			

July's (hot) Water Quality Test Results



Photo: Aidan Barry

Flood water sampling, Gentian Rd, 26 July 2024

Sample Date	STATION_ID	ENTEROCOCCUS MPN/100ML
7/24/24	01-HHT	2755
	02-HHT	3873
	03-HHT	not sampled; no standing water at site

DPW replaces weathered street signs



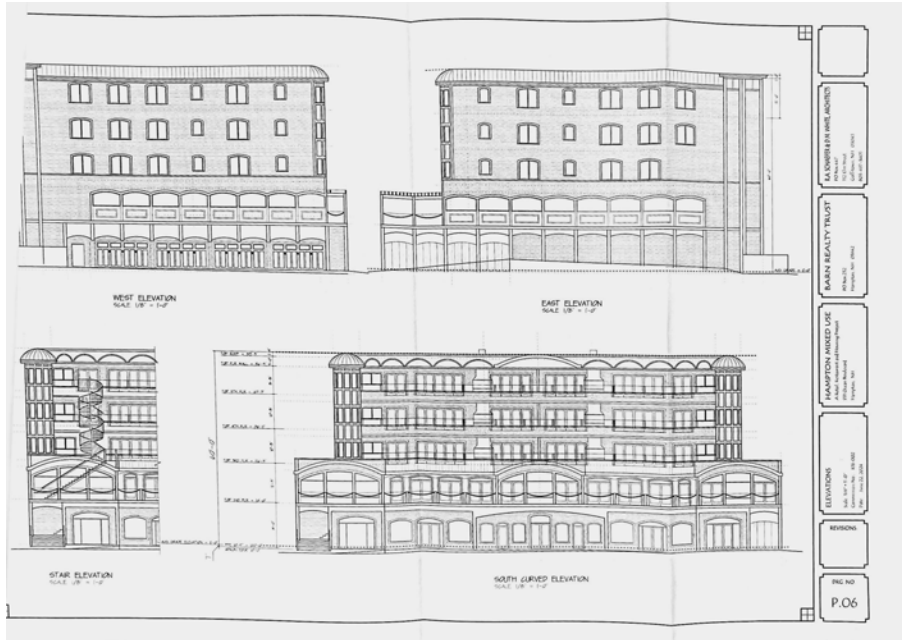
August 13 Flood Ready Neighborhood Meeting



FRN Meeting Highlights

- 26 residents, 8 local and state conservation, wetland, and drainage specialists participate
- DPW Update on King's Highway Drainage Project
- Discussion of berm and decision that it is not feasible
- Interest in feasibility of restoring 30 acres of degraded wetlands north of High Street to promote marsh migration and flood mitigation
- 28 people sign petition to oppose parking variance for 931 Ocean Blvd

Defending a right to resilience



Developer (931 Ocean Blvd) seeks to use same public parking lots used by North Beach residents in Hampton Flood Placard Program

