

HAMPTON COASTAL HAZARDS ADAPTATION TEAM (CHAT)

July 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.

Jennifer Hale, Director, DPW (via email)

- King's Highway project has not gone out to bid as expected. We have been value engineering the cost and as of this week determined that we will be able to use components of the old pump station to help in lowering the costs. The Design and Plans are being updated accordingly. The good news is that we were able to pressure test the existing forcemain and the results indicated the forcemain is intact and re-usable, also saving money.
- The BOS at their July 8, 2024, meeting approved the recommendation for the Ordinance Change for Flood Placards from Elev. 10' to Elev. 9.5'. New educational materials will be distributed with the Parking Placards and the website will be updated.

Tom Bassett, Resident Representative (slides attached)

- "Partial flooding" is the theme of this month's update. Most of the Meadow Pond neighborhood flood updates focus on widespread flooding, but partial flooding is also common. Partial floodwaters are difficult to avoid and pose similar risks to widespread flooding such as adversely affecting property, posing health risks because of contaminated water, and causing vehicle damage due to rust from brackish water.
- Mr. Bassett and Aiden Barry (NH Department of Environmental Services (DES)) will be presenting at the Coastal Adaptation Work Group's Climate Summit. The presentation will address flood water quality testing from the last two years. The presentation will also address the fruits of collaborative approaches to addressing climate coastal hazards.
- There will be a Flood Ready Neighborhood meeting on 13 August 2024. At the meeting, we will discuss the challenges of putting a berm around our neighborhood. A report from the Flood Ready Neighborhoods program was distributed to the neighborhood. At the August meeting, there will be discussions with DES representatives who are knowledgeable about permitting. There will also be broader discussions about what kind of approaches may be feasible that are more environmentally and wetland friendly. The group is open to solutions and thankful for the opportunity to meet with DES and town representatives to find potential ways forward.

Jason Bachand, Town Planner

- Met last week with the Town of Rye's Master Plan Steering Committee about Hampton's master plan implementation efforts thus far. Rye is working on their master plan, and they're interested in Hampton's approaches to forming the committee, lessons learned, benefits and challenges, and the coastal resilience plan.

Ms. Kravitz, HBAC Representative

- HBAC will meet again in September. Currently there are two projects under development. The Resilience and Environmental Master Plan was recently completed, approved, and adopted by Hampton as part of the Town's latest master plan and as an appendix. The goal for the near future is to develop a means of combining that last master plan segment with the previous ones which would be the 2018 transportation and the original in 2023. Ms. Kravitz stated HBAC has developed an online matrix as part of the master plan. The matrix is to be updated as needed or as available information about funding becomes available.
- The core purpose of HBAC is resilience and adaptation for the beach area. CHAT members are welcome to provide input. A project grant committee was formed with Ms. Kravitz, Pat Bushway, and Tracy Emerick to look at opportunities to be helpful to the community in terms of funding.
- HBAC provided a letter of support for the Town for submission of a grant proposal to DES.

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Brianna O'Brien, Conservation Coordinator

- Anticipates hearing about the Coastal Resilience Grant that Hampton applied for tomorrow. Thank you all for your letters of support for that project. The grant is designated for hiring a short-term consultant to help outreach efforts and amplify, organize, and align coastal resilience efforts moving forward. This will enable the Town of Hampton to advance coastal resilience efforts and get appropriate input from the public and other partners in the absence of a full-time coastal resilience program.
- In the last few months there have been a lot of dune restoration efforts in Hampton. There has been a huge volunteer push and volunteer effort to make it happen. Several thousand plants were planted last fall at Plaice Cove and some of the plants have done well and have rooted even if they don't look like they're alive. Two residents along the Plaice Cove have donated their effort and money, planting along the beach in front of their properties and keeping them watered.
- We like to make dune planting at Plaice Cove an annual effort. The dune in this area needs a lot of intervention annually. The goal is to partner with UNH extension, NH Sea Grant, and some of the residents in that neighborhood to get an annual planting effort done in early spring. There's a lot of buy in from the neighborhood
- Portsmouth Avenue dune: Many thanks to the Bashlines for their momentum and commitment to that area. Vegetation was planted 1.5 months ago at the end of the street. Some of the vegetation has rooted. A fence was installed surrounding the dune, so it is closed from all foot traffic. A lot of the plants came back despite the damage to the dune during the recent storm season. Sand from the street was moved by hand back into the dune by volunteers.
- The BOS are supportive of these efforts. The BOS originally voted to close off the Portsmouth Avenue beach access but decided to keep the path open based upon site visits, property lines, and the popularity of the path with the public.



CHAT Update
July 2024

Meadow Pond Neighborhood

Partial flooding events

- Large parts of street are flooded
- Difficult to avoid
- Pose risks similar to widespread flooding

Predicted and recorded high tide levels (MLLW) and flooding

Date	Predicted High Tide	Recorded High Tide	Rainfall (inches)	Flooding (Y/N)
June 24, 2024	9.6 ft	10.52 ft	0.1	Y (partial)
June 25, 2024	9.7 ft	10.54 ft	0	Y (partial)
June 26, 2024	9.6 ft	10.45 ft	0.001	Y (partial)

Partial flooding, 24 June 2024



Partial flooding, 25 June 2024



Partial flooding, 26 June 2024



Looking forward

1. Presentation with Aidan Barry of DES to the 2024 Coastal Adaptation Workgroup (CAW) Climate Summit on flood water quality testing and the benefits of collaboration for advancing resilience.
2. Floodready Neighborhood (FRN) meeting planned for Tuesday, 13 August 2024 (8:00-9:30 a.m.) on FRN's report on the challenges of constructing a berm to mitigate flooding and alternative wetland-friendly solutions.