

HAMPTON COASTAL HAZARDS ADAPTATION TEAM (CHAT)

October 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.

Jason Bachand, Town Planner

- CHAT and the Master Plan Implementation Committee had a combined table at the Hampton Historical Society Fall Festival in October. Engagement was moderate due to the weather, but a lot of material was available. A few kids participated in the art activity.

Tom Bassett, Resident Representative

- The neighborhood experienced three days of flooding in September. Flood water in the Greene Street and Gentian Road area is high tide flood water that backs up and overflows from the pond into the streets.
- The observed high tide was higher than predicted on September 19-21, resulting in flooding.
- NHDES collected samples for Enterococcus testing from the flood water. Sampling showed Enterococcus levels exceeded the allowable amounts. This is a health hazard every time the area floods.
 - DPW Director Jennifer Hale noted that the Enterococcus levels in Meadow Pond are largely due to wildlife. When it spills over into the neighborhood as standing water, it is a safety concern.
- The neighborhood drainage project bids far exceeded the amount of funding Hampton allocated for this project. DPW project revisions were unable to move the project within budget. The project is now on pause. A scaled-down version of the project still has about a \$600K shortfall. Hampton Town staff, NHDES, and NH Executive Councilor Janet Stevens are attempting to get state funds allocated to this project via the reallocation of unspent ARPA funds.

Jennifer Hale, Director of Department of Public Works

- The Board of Selectmen is holding a public hearing on October 23 to accept designated funding for the drainage project.
- The revised project eliminates catch basins on Kings Highway but does include all the work for Meadow Pond including the pump station. The plan is to have multiple phases for the drainage project.
- The water main replacement project construction kick-off meeting was held October 15.

Bob Ladd, Hampton Beach Village District

- State Parks is placing a berm at the north end of the beach near Church Street in response to spillovers onto Church street from recent storms. This is in addition existing berms already in place on the south end of the beach.

Lucy Perkins, NH Department of Environmental Services (non-member)

- Flood Preparedness Day update: Over 350 sandbags were distributed at Flood Preparedness Day (Oct 5, 2024). The limit was no more than 10 bags per household. Volunteers helped residents set up the sandbags at their homes.
 - DWP Director Jennifer Hale said that additional sandbags went out to residents after the event. It may be helpful to have this event twice per year in order to make good use of time, personnel, and material resources.



CHAT Update,
October 2024
Meadow Pond Neighborhood

Greene St and Gentian Rd, 21 Sept 2024 flood

Photos: Tom Bassett

Meadow Pond Neighborhood Flooding on Sept 19, 20, 21



September 2024 tides, rainfall, and flooding

Date	Predicted High Tide (MLLW)	Observed High Tide (MLLW)	Rainfall	Flooding
Sept 19	10.2 ft	10.9 ft	0 in	Y
Sept 20	10.4 ft	11.4 ft	0.04 in	Y
Sept 21	10.3 ft	10.9 ft	0.12	Y

Sources: US Harbors, Hampton Tide Gauge, Local Conditions.com, Ring camera



Storm surge 21 Sept 2024

Water quality testing, 20 Sept 2024



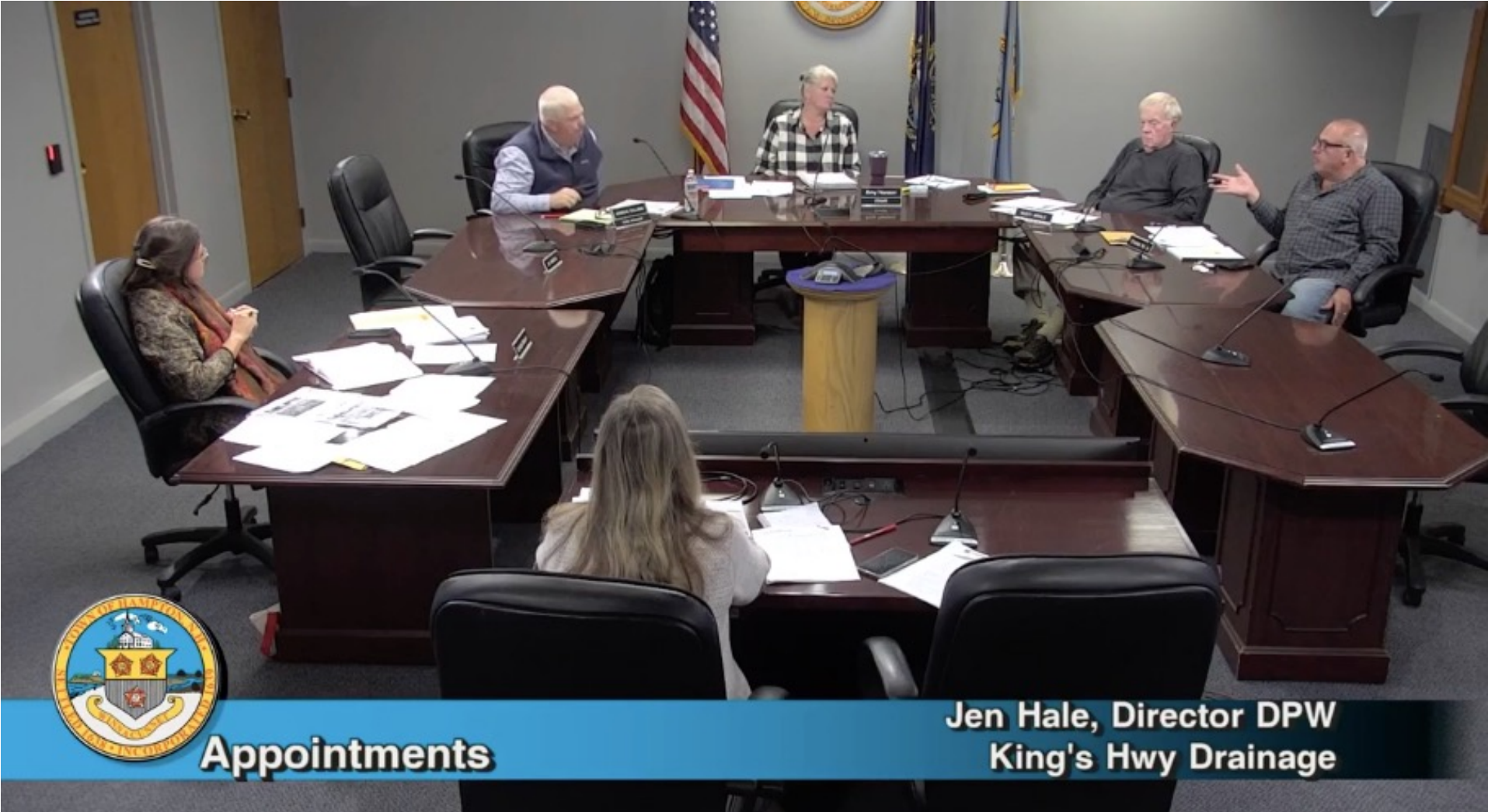
Sally Soule, NHDES,
collecting and preparing
water samples for testing



RESULTS

Sample Date	STATION_ID	ENTEROCOCCUS MPN/100ML
9/20/24	01-HHT	3609
	02-HHT	4541
	03-HHT	10462
	MP-HHT	not sampled

Devastating news revealed at Select Board meeting (Oct 7, 2024)



Appointments

**Jen Hale, Director DPW
King's Hwy Drainage**

LOCAL

North Beach residents irked after Hampton's \$2.8M flood relief project put on hold

Max Sullivan Portsmouth Herald

Published 5:06 a.m. ET Oct. 11, 2024 | Updated 12:27 p.m. ET Oct. 11, 2024



HAMPTON — Residents of North Beach, particularly those living off Kings Highway, were disheartened to learn a crucial drainage project in their flood-prone neighborhood may be put on hold.

The proposed project aimed to install a new drainage system to redirect floodwaters from Greene Street, Gentian Drive, and Meadow Pond Road through King's Highway to Winnacunnet Road via a force main. However, town Public Works Director Jenn Hale informed the selectmen on Monday the bids received for the project significantly exceeded the town's budget of \$2.8 million, with the lowest bid at \$4.9 million and the highest at \$6.4 million.

Hale explained the town is approximately \$550,000 short  needed to

King's Highway
Drainage Project
put on hold due
to high bids

But concerted effort brings hope

- Meadow Pond Neighborhood urges Town Manager to seek emergency funds to continue King Highway Drainage Project before Dec 2024 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding deadline.
- Town, NHDES, engineers, and NH Executive Councilor work to move forward with a scaled down (“Phase 1”) of the drainage project focused on the Meadow Pond neighborhood.
- Executive Councilor Janet Stevens is optimistic that the state’s Joint Fiscal Committee (Oct 18) and Executive Council (Oct 30) will approve a \$1.3 million reallocation of unspent ARPA funds to Meadow Pond drainage project.