

HAMPTON COASTAL HAZARDS ADAPTATION TEAM (CHAT)

September 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

- The Planning Board is starting its zoning board reorganization project. The top priority from the Master Plan was to review the Zoning Ordinance and identify needed changes to make it consistent with the Master Plan. The review process will occur in three phases. The first phase will review the structure of the Zoning Ordinance. Second, there will be a warrant article requesting an audit of the ordinance. Third, changes to the Zoning Ordinance will be made to make it align with the Master Plan.
- Zoning board amendments are being submitted. Portions of the Floodplain Ordinance from last year was tabled but is being brought back for review. The focus of this ordinance is to help get structures out of harm's way, and this was discussed during a September 4th meeting with the Planning Board. The purpose of this ordinance is to improve flood resiliency and reduce barriers in the form of variances and associated costs.

Rayann Dionne, SHEA

- As part of National Estuaries Week, SHEA is having a photo contest and a kid's coloring contest with cash prizes.
- There will be a Saltmarsh Sparrow talk with Grace McCulloch, a UNH research graduate who now works for NH Audubon on September 26.

Brianna O'Brien, Conservation Coordinator

- The Town is moving forward with the Swift Current Grant application to provide financial assistance for home elevations in Hampton. There are between 40 and 50 Hampton properties that are eligible for this funding and the application deadline is January 2025.

Tom Bassett, Resident Representative (via CHAT Coordinator)

- Flooding occurred on several days in the Meadow Pond neighborhood. From August 20-23, the observed high tide was over 10 ft MLLW and up to 11.16 ft on the 20th, resulting in flooded or partially flooded streets.
- The bid process for the DPW Drainage Project began. Excavators dug to determine the water table height on Gentian Road on August 23.
- The Meadow Pond neighborhood submitted a rights to resilience letter to the Zoning Board of Adjustments on August 30, 2024 expressing their opposition to a request for a parking variance for redevelopment of 931 Ocean Blvd. The applicant sought to use public parking lots for business patrons, which threatens the adaptive capacity of our flood prone neighborhood to use these lots as allowed by the Flood Placard Program. The application was withdrawn by the applicant. A request was made to include the opposition letter from Meadow Pond as part of the official record for any future application by 931 Ocean Blvd that seeks a similar parking variance, but the Building Department did not guarantee that this could be done.
- Mr. Bassett asked that the ZBA post applications for variances online to improve public access and participation in local government.