

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

**1:00–3:00 pm**

VIRTUAL MEETING

**MINUTES**

**1. Present**

Jason Bachand – Hampton Town Planner  
Kate Bashline - Hampton Resident Representative  
Tom Bassett – Hampton Resident Representative  
Jay Diener – Conservation Commission  
Rayann Dionne – Seabrook-Hamptons Estuary Alliance  
Ward Galanis – Hampton Planning Board  
Jennifer Gilbert – NHDES Coastal Program  
Brianna Hagan – Hampton Conservation Coordinator  
Jennifer Hale – Hampton DPW Director  
Steven LaBranche - Hampton Resident Representative  
Ben Ritt – Hampton Coastal Resilience Coordinator

Guest

Jeff Gripp – Hampton resident

**2. Meeting Approval**

**January Meeting Minutes**

Mr. LaBranche motioned to approve the January 2025 with edits provided

Second by Mr. Diener

Vote: All in favor

**3. Member Updates**

Mr. Diener – Seabrook Hamptons Estuary Alliance

Mr. Diener shared progress on the Seabrook Hampton Estuary Alliance Small Grants Program, noting that the first round of projects has been implemented and the window for the second round of proposals is open, with applications due on March 2nd.

Ms. Bashline – Sunvalley Dune Erosion

Ms. Bashline shared a few slides showing the erosion of dunes along Sunvalley (on the southern side of the Hampton River outlet) over the past two decades, highlighting significant losses by 2024. The 2017 aerial photo of hundreds of yards of healthy dunes east & west of the bridge are lost from 2017 to 2024, a 7 year period. She expressed concern about the lack of sand replenishment and requested help understanding how to address the issue, particularly given the impacts of the bridge project. Ms. Bashline also inquired about the ARM fund and its potential to support dune restoration in this area.

Ms. Hagan explained the ARM fund program, which allows development/redevelopment projects to mitigate impacts on wetlands and aquatic resources through in-lieu fee payments. She described how they identified Place Cove as an eligible project site due to its degraded dunes and proximity to federally protected marsh grass. The project aims to use dredge material from an upcoming dredge in 2028, though no final decisions have been made on its specific use.

Mr. Ritt further noted that Place Cove was selected for the ARM grant due to its strong application and the ability to use locally sourced material, which would significantly reduce costs. He emphasized that the project timeline is heavily dependent on the bridge construction, scheduled for 2028. Ms. Bashline raised questions about the process for obtaining dredged sand and the possibility of including other areas, such as Sunvalley, in the same project. Mr. Ritt clarified that federal regulations and protected resources make it challenging to tie multiple projects together, but they are working within these constraints to maximize the use of available material in Hampton.

Mr. Ritt also explained that beach nourishment is a common issue across the country, with some areas choosing managed retreat while others actively work to maintain shorelines. Hampton is actively engaging with the Army Corps to understand the process and requirements for future projects. Ms. Hale shared her insight and acknowledged the need in this area, noting that it will take a variety of partners coming together to address it.

Ms. Bashline expressed her appreciation for CHAT's help and transparency in addressing these ongoing coastal challenges.

Mr. Bassett - Meadow Pond Neighborhood

Mr. Bassett presented an update with slides (attached) on the new force main drain system, which has been effective in reducing flooding in the neighborhood, with only minor flooding during the highest tides. He expressed optimism about the system's performance but noted concerns about future environmental regulations.

Mr. Ritt – Coastal Resilience Coordinator

Mr. Ritt provided an update on the Coastal Resilience Roadmap forum, highlighting the success of the second session and encouraging participants to complete the survey on the town website.

#### **4. CHAT 2025 Review and Planning**

Ms. Dionne shared a series of slides (attached) that began with a reflection on the group's progress over the past 7 years, highlighting its impact on town initiatives and the completion of many recommendations. The group reviewed the CHAT check-in and planning survey results and discussed the following items

- Generally comfortable with the current Zoom setup but open to shorter meetings and potential in-person gatherings.
- Agreed to explore expanding CHAT's membership by reaching out to the Chamber of Commerce for a business representative.

- Discussed strategies to increase school participation in their coastal resilience discussions, with suggestions to engage school board members, teachers, or interested students. Some members were interested in exploring the possibility of integrating these topics into the school curriculum. It was noted that the timing of CHAT meetings might not align well with the school day schedule.
- Members valued learning from guest speakers and presentations. There was interest in focusing on public engagement and nature-based solutions at future meetings, as well as in revisiting the higher floodplain standards list—those not yet implemented.

The group discussed concerns about motorized vehicles in the salt marsh, with Mr. LaBranche raising questions about existing laws and enforcement. Rayann confirmed that there are laws restricting jet skis from the Hampton/Seabrook Estuary, though enforcement can be challenging. Mr. Galanis shared his experience calling 911 about jet ski activity, and Mr. Gripp shared a link to the specific [RSA 270:74-a](#) regulation. Ms. Dionne noting that an action item in the Hampton-Seabrook Estuary management plan is to check in with Marine Patrol about enforcement capabilities.

Ms. Dionne shared the concept of CHAT's evolving role in supporting the town's coastal resilience efforts. The CHAT planning team proposed shifting CHAT's focus to supporting implementation of town initiatives (i.e., Coastal Resilience Roadmap and coastal resilience action items in the Master Plan), with the town taking a more leadership role in CHAT's operations. Mr. Ritt highlighted the opportunity for CHAT to move from asking "what if" to "how do we" questions, focusing on making coastal resilience plans a reality for the entire community. The planning team would continue to explore this new direction and how it might influence future meeting structures, with the goal of moving from discussing concepts to implementing specific plans. CHAT members expressed no major concerns or opposition to this proposed shift at this time.

## **5. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.