# Coastal Hazards Adaptation Team (CHAT) Work Session #82

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

**1:00–3:00 pm**

VIRTUAL MEETING

**MINUTES**

## 1. Present

Jason Bachand – Hampton Town Planner
Kate Bashline - Hampton Resident Representative
Tom Bassett – Resident
Scott Blair – Hampton Budget Committee
Jay Diener – Conservation Commission
Rayann Dionne – Seabrook-Hamptons Estuary Alliance
Jennifer Gilbert – NHDES Coastal Program
Jennifer Hale – Hampton DPW Director
Brianna Hagan – Hampton Conservation Coordinator
Steven LaBranche - Hampton Resident Representative
Bob Lad - Hampton Beach Village District
Chris Muns – Hampton State Representative
Ben Ritt – Hampton Coastal Resilience Coordinator

Guests
Carleigh Beriont – Hampton Resident
Jeff Gripp – Hampton Resident

## 2. Meeting Approval

**March Meeting Minutes**
Mr. LaBranche motioned to approve the March 2026 with edits provided
Second by Mr. Basset
Vote: All in favor

## 3. Member Updates

Mr. Bassett – Meadow Pond Neighborhood Update (slides attached)
Mr. Bassett presented data showing a significant reduction in flooding in the Meadow Pond neighborhood, attributing the improvement to a new forced main drain system. He compared flooding statistics from 2024-2026, noting that while March and April 2026 had high tides similar to previous years, there was only one day of flooding compared to 18 days in 2024 and 8 days in 2025.

Brianna Hagan – Hampton Conservation Coordinator
Ms. Hagan reminded everyone about an upcoming event at the Seashell hosted by NHDES Coastal Program and the Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) regarding the ecological importance and historic uses of the salt marsh alongside parcel ownership and boundary

uncertainties, and how that impacts management and restoration efforts. The event is in-person with a virtual option.

Chris Muns – Hampton State Representative
Rep Muns provided updates on two pieces of legislation related to flood resilience and property tax assessments. The first bill, which would have allowed towns to assess additional property taxes in coastal flood zones and to establish a flood resilience investment fund, failed to pass the House. The second bill, HB 1285, proposes establishing a commission to explore implementing an R-PACER program in New Hampshire (modeled after C-PACER - Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy and Resiliency), which would provide financing for home energy efficiency and resilience projects through property tax assessments. This bill passed the House and was introduced to the Senate Commerce Committee the previous week, where it will determine its chances of success.

Ms. Dionne – Seabrook-Hamptons Estuary Alliance
Ms. Dionne shared two new resources: a bi-monthly webinar series called "Making Waves" from the NHDES Coastal Program and a new "Caring for Our Marshes" resource aimed at homeowners.

John Nyan – Hampton Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Nyan shared that the Town has become a courtesy member of the Chamber, providing access to post events to an email subscriber list of approximately 700. He also shared an update on efforts to address piping plover concerns, including canceling fireworks and planning educational initiatives with New Hampshire Fish and Game. Ms. Bashline asked if the informational signage would also be translated in Spanish. Mr. Nyan was not certain but would follow up.

Mr. Ritt – Coastal Resilience Coordinator
Mr. Ritt provided an update on Hampton's selection for the Living Shorelines Planning Series, explaining that over the next month and a half, he will participate in online courses and site visits to develop a plan to address erosion in the Sun Valley area near the 1A bridge, in conjunction with the Woods Hole Group.

**4. Learning**

**Climate Ready Hampton Roadmap Updates** (slides attached)
Mr. Ritt presented the Hampton Coastal Resiliency Roadmap, highlighting the community engagement process, which included two forums and online surveys, resulting in 16 ranked recommendations across four categories: public infrastructure, regulation and planning, restoration and conservation, and outreach. The team developed a decision-making matrix to prioritize projects based on factors like readiness, timeline, and cost, ultimately selecting three priority projects: conserving salt marsh areas, stormwater and drainage upgrades, and addressing shoreline erosion. He emphasized that the roadmap is a living document that will evolve as opportunities and resources become available, with the full document and story map available on the town website. Ms. Beriont asked about federal programs supporting the roadmap, to which Mr. Ritt outlined opportunities with NOAA, the Department of Transportation, and the Army Corps of Engineers, noting that future funding for projects like

beach nourishment remains uncertain. He further explained that due to the bridge project, the Army Corps could not determine whether sand placements on the south side of the bridge would return to the harbor, requiring further modeling after the bridge's completion. The Army Corps conducted a cost-benefit analysis and decided to use the sand at other locations along New Hampshire's coastline that showed more favorable outcomes. Ben noted that future opportunities exist for obtaining sand through other dredging programs along the coastline and suggested working with the Woods Hole Institute to provide detailed modeling data for future projects.

There was a brief discussion about the challenges and timeframes involved in grant writing and implementation. Ms. Hagan highlighted the NHDES Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund (ARM) as an example of a complex federal program with lengthy administrative processes. She explained specific issues with the ARM grant, including the requirement for a federal mitigation plan and the need to demonstrate protection of a federally protected resource, which can delay implementation. They noted that improving the program could involve increasing fees for developers and clarifying language around dune impacts.

**5. Discussing:** Review survey results for Higher Floodplain Standards

Ms. Dionne reviewed with the group the survey results of prioritizing the remaining higher floodplain standards, with “Cumulative tracking of improvements” receiving the most support (86%) (results attached). Mr. Bachand explained that this standard would require tracking building improvements over time rather than resetting the clock with each permit. Mr. Bachand noted that this will require further discussions with the Building Department to determine their ability and capacity for tracking improvements. The group also discussed the higher standard related to requiring compensatory storage. He felt this option might be easier for the group to begin exploring further, since language for compensatory mitigation has been drafted. The group's consensus was to see whether there are nearby communities that have implemented cumulative tracking or the compensatory storage requirements, and to hear more about their processes and experiences.

**6. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

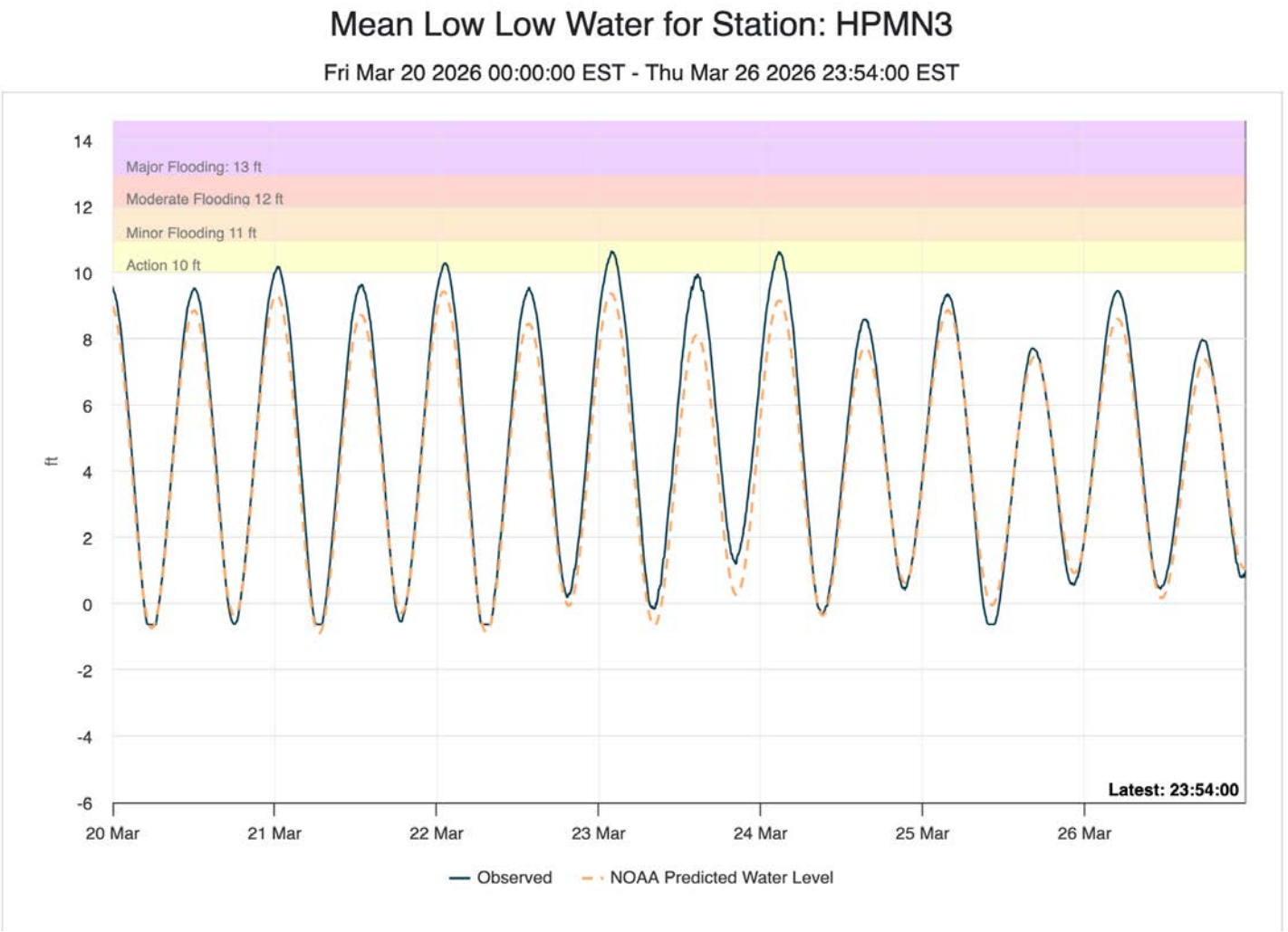

CHAT UPDATE
Meadow Pond Neighborhood
March & April 2026
Meadow Pond Neighborhood flood, 24 March 2026
Photo: T. Basse

# Predicted and observed high tides, rainfall and flooding Feb 18-23, 2026

| Date | Predicted High Tide (MLLW) (1) | Observed High Tide (MLLW) (2) | Rainfall (3) | Flooding (4) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Feb 18 | 9.2 ft | 9.90 ft | 0 in | no |
| Feb 19 | 9.3 ft | 9.77 ft | 0 in | no |
| Feb 20 | 9.1 ft | 9.66 ft | 1.41 in [9.6” snow] | no |
| Feb 21 | 9.2 ft | 10.21 ft | 0.67 in [4.6” snow] | no |
| Feb 22 | 9.3 ft | 9.79 ft | 0 in | no |
| Feb 23 | 9.2 ft | 10.89 ft | 0 in [” snow] | no |

*Sources*: (1) US Harbors.com; (2) NERACOOS.org; (3) Localconditions.com; (4) Neighborhood observations

Four days of 10 ft+ high tides between March 22-24



# Predicted and observed high tides, rainfall and flooding: March 20-24, 2026

| Date | Predicted High Tide (MLLW) (1) | Observed High Tide (MLLW) (2) | Rainfall (3) | Flooding (4) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| March 20 | 9.5 ft | 9.61 ft | 0 in | no |
| March 21 | 9.8 ft | 10.15 ft | 0 in | no |
| March 22 | 9.9 ft | 10.28 ft | 0.61 in | no |
| March 23 | 9.8 ft | 10.64 ft | 0 in | no |
| March 24 | 9.5 ft | 10.57 ft | 0 in | yes |

*Sources*: (1) US Harbors.com; (2) NERACOOS.org; (3) Localconditions.com; (4) Neighborhood observations

# 24 March 2026 flooding

24 March 2026 (6:30 am)

24 March 2026 (10:00 am)

# Predicted and observed high tides, rainfall and flooding April 16-21, 2026

| Date | Predicted High Tide (MLLW) (1) | Observed High Tide (MLLW) (2) | Rainfall (3) | Flooding (4) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| April 16 | 9.7 ft | 10.23 ft | 1.97 in | no |
| April 17 | ---- ft | 10.62 ft | 0 in | no |
| April 18 | 10.1 ft | 11.16 ft | 0 in | no |
| April 19 | 10.3 ft | 11.17 ft | 0.75 in | no |
| April 20 | 10.3 ft | 10.5 ft | 0.02 in | no |
| April 21 | 10.1 ft | 10.43 ft | 0 in | no |

*Sources*: (1) US Harbors.com; (2) NERACOOS.org; (3) Localconditions.com; (4) Neighborhood observations

# Observations

- Despite observed high tides in March and April, there was just one flood event in that period.
- In contrast, flooding events were much higher in previous years during the same period.

| YEAR | MARCH | APRIL | Sub-total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2024 | 8 | 10 | 18 |
| 2025 | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| 2026 | 1 | 0 | 1 |

# Observations cont…

**Also noteworthy**:

(1) the duration of the March 26 flood was short because of the force main drain pumping

(2) a major public health hazard (*Enterococcus* bacteria) has greatly diminished,

(3) by eliminating the reverse flow of water from Meadow Pond to our streets during high water, and removing it quickly when the streets do flood, the new force main drain system appears to have significantly reduced the flooding problem in our neighborhood.

# HAMPTON'S 2026 COASTAL RESILIENCE ROAD MAP

## FINAL PRESENTATION

*Wednesday April 1st, 2026*

# GAP ANALYSIS

**Reviewed 7 coastal resilience reports and studies!**

1. 2024 Hazard Mitigation Plan
2. The Hampton Harbor Flooding Evaluation
3. 2023 Town of Hampton Master Plan
4. The Coastal Hazards Adaptation Team Recommendations
5. 2023 Hampton Beach Master Plan Update
6. 2024 Hampton Natural Resources Inventory
7. Hampton Flood Mitigation Analysis for Meadow Pond

# GAP ANALYSIS

## 53 coastal resilience project recommendations!

# COMMUNITY FORUM 1 - NOVEMBER

## 58 Forum Attendees!

- FLOODING
- ROADS
- DUNES/BEACH
- STORMWATER
- SHORELINE PROTECTION
- THE MARSH

More Outreach!

# COMMUNITY FORUM 2 – JANUARY

**17** Key Stakeholders!

**21** Community Attendees!

**27** Survey Responses!

# PRIORITY COASTAL RESILIENCE PROJECTS

| PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE | REGULATION/ PLANNING |
|---|---|
| RESTORATION/ CONSERVATION | OUTREACH |

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Conserve areas for marsh migration & flood storage |
| 2 | Stormwater & drainage upgrades |
| 3 | Address shoreline erosion |
| 4 | Improve flood alert system |
| 5 | Acquire land for marsh restoration. |
| 6 | Incentivize development in low-risk areas |
| 7 | Flood disclosure & risk outreach |
| 8 | Targeted roadway flood mitigation |
| 9 | Identify resilient hubs & connectors |
| 10 | Conserve at-risk properties & return to open space |
| 11 | Funding strategy for long-term adaptation |
| 12 | New funding strategies for voluntary buyouts |
| 13 | Managed retreat of public infrastructure |
| 14 | Neighborhood-scale adaptation planning |
| 15 | Install tide gates & stormwater pumping (Hampton Harbor) |
| 16 | Install flood barriers north of Rt. 101 |

# COASTAL RESILIENCE ROAD MAP

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Stakeholder Prioritization** | 1-16 combined ranking | | |
| **Project Readiness** | **Low** | **Moderate** | **High** |
| **Project Length** | **Short** | **Medium** | **Long** |
| **Cost Range** | $-$$$$$ | | |
| **Considerations & Constraints** | ☑ Engineering Study<br>☑ Permitting<br>☑ Lengthy legal process<br>☑ Property acquisition or easement<br>☑ Private landowner cooperation/coordination<br>☑ Staff time/capacity | | |

# PRIORITY PROJECTS

## Conserve areas for marsh migration & flood storage

*Hampton Harbor, Hampton River, wetlands*

1


2

## Stormwater & drainage upgrades

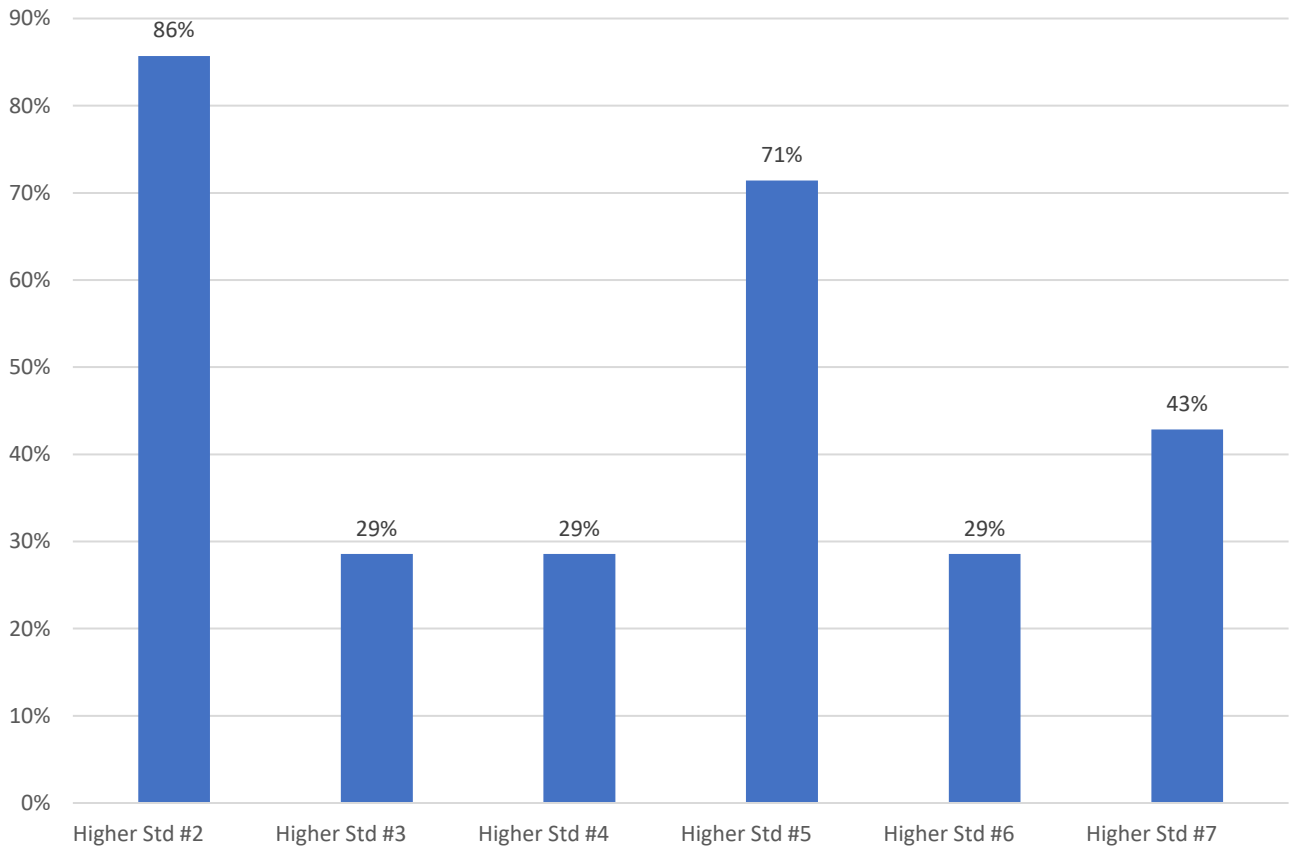
*High St., Campton Ave., Portsmouth Ave., Plymouth Ave., Great Boar's Head, Ocean Blvd., Brown Ave., Ashworth Ave., Meadow Pond, Hobson Ave., Manchester Ave., and south of Winnacunnet Rd. and Hampton-Seabrook Estuary*

## Address shoreline erosion

*Living shorelines, sand nourishment, and bank stabilization. Eel creek and Sun Valley beach and dunes. Maintain and restore beaches and dunes.*

3

# Survey Results: Exploring Higher Floodplain Standards




- **Higher Standard #2**: Amend Substantial Improvement Definition to require improvements to a building be tracked cumulatively over time.
- **Higher Standard #3**: Amend Substantial Damage Definition to require repairs to a building be tracked cumulatively over a period of time
- **Higher Standard #4**: Lower Substantial Improvement and Damage Thresholds.
- **Higher Standard #5**: Adopt a Coastal Hazard Overlay District.
- **Higher Standard #6**: Change maximum impervious cover limitation to 50% in the Special Flood Hazard Area.
- **Higher Standard #7**: Adopt a compensatory storage requirement.

Survey: 7 respondents sharing top 3 choices