

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

1:00–3:00 pm

VIRTUAL MEETING

MINUTES

1. Present

Jason Bachand – Hampton Town Planner
Tom Bassett – Hampton Resident Representative
Scott Blair – Hampton Budget Committee
Maddie DiIunno – Rockingham Planning Commission
Jay Diener – Conservation Commission
Rayann Dionne – Seabrook-Hamptons Estuary Alliance
Ward Galanis – Hampton Planning Board
Brianna Hagan – Hampton Conservation Coordinator
Jennifer Hale – Hampton DPW Director
Steven LaBranche - Hampton Resident Representative
Bob Ladd – Hampton Beach Village District
Ben Ritt – Hampton Coastal Resilience Coordinator

Guests

Jeff Gripp – Hampton resident
Carleigh Beriont – Hampton resident
Aidan Barry – NHDES Coastal Program

2. Meeting Approval

September

Mr. Diener motioned to approve the November 2025 with edits provided with Mr. Bassett’s slides attached

Second by Mr. Bachand

Vote: All in favor with Mr. Bassett abstaining

3. Member Updates

Mr. Bassett - Meadow Pond Neighborhood

Mr. Bassett presented an update with slides (attached) on the new force main drain system in the Meadow Pond neighborhood, which successfully managed higher than usual tides in January. The system, which has been fine-tuned to read tide levels and activate pumps at optimal times, prevented major flooding and kept water depths to around 2 inches for short periods. Ms. Hale confirmed that the system is performing as intended and that monitoring will continue, while Mr. Bassett mentioned potential future efforts to address flooding from the pond into the streets through the Flood Ready Neighborhood and Conservation Commission.

Mr. Bachand – Plan NH Charette

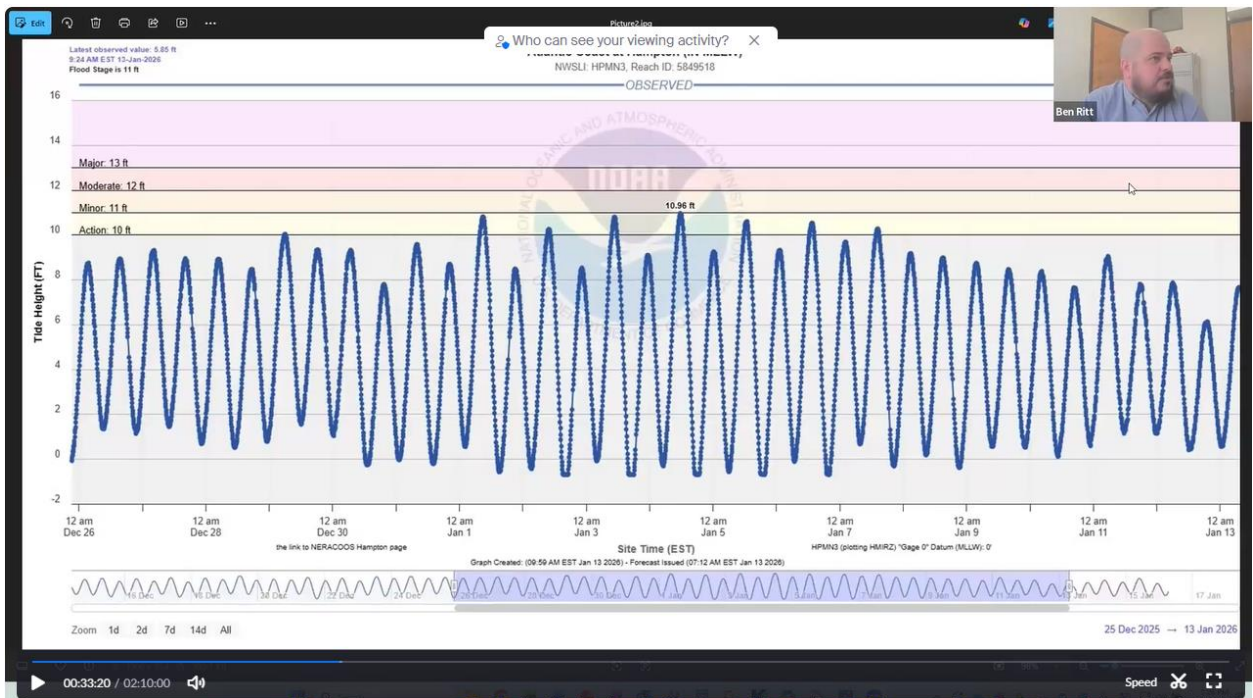
Mr. Bachand shared that the final report from the Plan New Hampshire charrette for the Town Center is now available on the Town website ([link](#)). He also noted that Planning Board moved the Cottage Court Ordinance to the ballot for the March town meeting.

Ms. Hagan – Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) funding

Ms. Hagan reported that the ARM proposal for dune restoration at Plaice Cove (Toppin to James Street) was recommended for full funding. There are a few additional steps that need to be completed before the award is finalized. This project includes plans for sand nourishment to help address the low beach elevation to make it more resilient in the face of increased coastal hazards and storms and three dune walkovers to minimize impact. It is a unique project, first of its kind, where they will be able to assess how an intertidal wetland responds to improvements to an adjacent sand dune system and how these two systems interact.

Mr. Ritt - Coastal Resilience Projects Update

Mr. Ritt shared data and graph from the Hampton Harbor tidal gauge, noting eight flooding events since December that were over 10 ft and three events just below 11 ft (see screen shot below). It was a very active month, but happy to consolidate the flood alerts system, increasing access to this important information and ability to be more prepared for these types of events.



He also announced a second Coastal Resilience public forum scheduled for January 28th. This will build off of the forum in November, working to distill all of that information and turning it into an action list for building resilience. Looking at current and future coast resilience efforts and opportunities. Gauge from the community as to what actions to be prioritized.

Then Mr. Ritt provided an overview of the ditch remediation pilot projects – 2 of the 4 sites have been worked on thus far. He shared photos of the work to-date and explained the approach being used to fill in the ditches with mowed marsh grasses (see attached slides). Looking forward to the upcoming efforts to expand this work. Mr. LaBranche shared his enthusiasm for the work and emphasized the importance of tracking the results and allowing people to see changes in real time. Mr. Ritt concurred and noted that they have a robust post-restoration planned. Ms. Hale added that this grant and project is through NHDES and America the Beautiful – there are lots of metrics and various characteristics that are being tracked. Mr. Barry also noted that prior to this work, a lot of field work was done to collect pre-project conditions in order to better understand how the marsh is responding. The oversight consultant is also documenting and tracking the methodology such as how much grass is being added to ditches to also help with understanding and refining approaches moving forward.

4. Learning: An Overview of Salt Marsh Ditching: Why It Occurred, Its Impacts, and Restoration Approaches

Mr. Barry, Coastal Resilience and Habitat Specialist with the NHDES Coastal Program, presented on the history, science, and ongoing salt marsh restoration efforts in Hampton, with a focus on the Ditch Remediation pilot site. He explained how salt marshes naturally accrete to keep pace with sea-level rise and described the use of single-channel hydrology to restore marshes closer to their pre-fragmented condition. Aidan also outlined the long history of salt marsh farming in Hampton, noting that extensive ditch networks and embankments were created from the 1600s through the early 1900s. These historic alterations continue to shape marsh conditions today, prompting ongoing deed research to map more than 1,200 parcels within the estuary.

The presentation also covered historical and modern human impacts—including farming practices, Civilian Conservation Corps activities, and 20th-century development—that have contributed to marsh fragmentation and subsidence. Mr. Barry described current restoration approaches that rely on low-impact techniques, such as mowing marsh vegetation and placing the material into ditches to gradually restore natural drainage patterns over multiple applications. He provided an update on a \$2 million, multi-partner restoration effort funded through NFWF and America the Beautiful, aiming to restore more than 180 acres in Hampton and Rye. Following the presentation the group discussion highlighted challenges related to complex land ownership, limited historical documentation, and the need for continued monitoring, public engagement, and future strategies to address more severely degraded marsh areas.

Attached is a copy of Mr. Barry’s slide and the full presentation can be view [here](#)

5. CHAT 2025 Review and Planning

Ms. Dionne presented a three-page summary highlighting CHAT's accomplishments and shared survey results to help inform CHAT’s format and areas of focus in 2026. The group discussed meeting format with some expressing interest in reducing meeting length to 90 minutes and having in-person meetings quarterly. While others felt meeting length was sufficient given the amount of content that is typically covered. Several did like the idea of having a less form an in-

person in the summer and winter. There was interest in expanding CHAT's membership to include local business owners as a group that is not explicitly represented in CHAT's roster. The survey results showed a strong interest in learning from guest speakers and presentations. Mr. Bassett emphasized the need for public education and engagement on coastal resilience issues. There was not enough time to fully review the survey results, so the discussion will continue at the February meeting.

6. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.