

# Hampton Beach Area Commission

## Minutes of meeting on:1/24/19

This meeting was recorded by Channel 22

**Meeting called to order** at 7pm by chair Nancy Stiles, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance



Town of Hampton



NH Dept of Natural and Cultural Resources



NH Dept of Transportation



Hampton Beach Village District



Hampton Area Chamber of Commerce



### Attending:

#### Commissioners:

Nancy Stiles, Town of Hampton and Chair  
Dean Merrill, Member at Large and Vice Chair  
Rick Griffin, Board of Selectmen Representative  
Fran McMahon, RPC representative  
Michael Housman, NH Dept Natural & Cultural Resources  
Bob Preston, Hampton Chamber of Commerce  
Robert Ladd, Hampton Beach Village District

#### also attending:

Jason Bachand, Town Planner  
Ann Carnaby, meeting assistant

#### Not present:

Chuck Rage, Hampton Beach Village District  
Bill Watson, NH Dept. of Transportation

### Public Comment:

none

### Appointments:

- Honorable Fred Rice - speaking on:

Recommended Actions from the Coastal Risks and Hazards Commission - No regrets next steps - opportunities for the HBAC

This report is a planning policy guide. The RSA's say the HBAC should develop planning policy by studying storm surge, rainfall, and sea level rise. (Fred doesn't believe in sea level rise, but does support the document because it addresses the other elements of the issue - storm surge and rainfall). There were 37 members of the Commission who developed the document. There were certain areas of disagreement among the members of the commission, but the document is supported by the group.

Contingency plans were developed for what might happen, since good planning is to have all contingencies available all the time as "what if" scenarios. There must be a "no regrets" approach since what happened in the past can't be changed - it was done based on best info at the time, and regrets aren't helpful for making policy - must look at observed trends. One or two events don't make a trend. The advisories on new construction in the report are good.

Copies of the Executive Summary of the report were distributed; a scan of this summary is attached.

The report addresses storm surge first, since it is widely accepted by most people, whereas not everyone accepts sea level rise as it is presented and projected by the experts at UNH.

The report also addresses extreme precipitation inland, which is a different phenomenon. Some projections for this are difficult to accept, but the planning is good.

need to collaborate with neighboring towns re: plans so there is consistency.

There were 4 goals presented by the study report which form the SAIL framework: Science, Assessment, Implementation, and legislation.

You can read the report at [www.nhcrhc.org](http://www.nhcrhc.org)

You'll be surprised at what can be done. Action is needed - it can be by local boards and commissions. Hampton Beach is one of the great economic drivers in the state. The document took 37 people three years to put together, and it is very good information for everyone, not just planners.

F McMahon - is there an implementation section?

there is no time stamp on any of it - it should be done incrementally

N Stiles - there is group called Tides to Storms that is helping people to decide what the best course is to take for their property

F McMahon - the Planning board has a couple of zoning amendments on the warrant this year

F Rice - Cliff Sinott (now retired Executive Director of the RPC) got this group started, and kept the working groups on track -

B Ladd - complimented speaker on his candor and mentioned last Tuesday's Boston Globe (1/22) article saying that sea level rise will be larger and more difficult and that the biggest regret is in not planning earlier. the Union of Concerned Scientists says that Hampton bears the greatest risk in this. We can address this incrementally, but we are projected to have 52 10foot tides this year - that's one a week

F Rice no one in this town is concerned enough to really do something drastic about this - we should follow the "start early" principle.

the Executive Summary of this report was distributed and is appended to these minutes.

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The chair introduced our delegation to Concord: reps Pat Bushway, Renny Cushing, Mike Edgar, Tom Loughman, and Senator Tom Sherman to give a report of upcoming legislation from our State Senator and Representatives that may impact Hampton/Hampton beach and where they would like us to consider providing support.

R Cushing - compliments to N Stiles and F Rice

in re: legislation, there is a bill to DES to include the recommendations in this report

P Bushway - yesterday submitted to Public Works committee HB 492 to allow Hampton and the state owned beach facility to increase hourly parking rates by up to 25¢ to benefit the town, with support from our town manager, attorney, and Sen Stiles. The Park Service opposed - the bill will probably go to a work session. HB 324 is in opposition to jet skis traveling in excess of headway speed in the Hampton Estuary. The process is to define the craft and the activity, work with the marine patrol to identify spots where they can go out to sea, and determine whether the current headway speed limit - now 6 mph, is adequate to maintain control of the craft.

R Cushing - HB352 restores a state aid program for water treatment plants. In 1972 the clean water act was passed - most sewer lines were built before that. this bill covers 70 projects in 35 communities - 3 are in Hampton. If funded, there will be \$148,000 to pay down the debt service, and RCushing is optimistic about its passage. HB 497 would reinstate the states contribution to 15% - for 40 years the state paid 35% retirement for police, fire, etc, and that is a lot of support that was taken away in 2011. HB497 it would give Hampton \$1 million. Cushing has others in the works include...

- would force housing - Coakley landfill remediation - reinstate a water commission- 2 bills concerning how we relate to our offshore in the Gulf of Maine - there is opposition to the development of oil & gas out there, but a review of offshore energy management for wind could be advantageous

T Loughman sits on Ways & Means Committee - they have been having demography updates that show that NH is aging rapidly and our national growth is stalled. we have a serious lack of work force which makes affordable housing a necessity. The biggest contribution to state aid will be domestic repatriation. A proposed bill will increase a conservative budget. Another bill looks at the issue of many vehicles in NH are registered in other states; this is an issue since vehicle registration

is second in bringing in revenue to NH. This must be studied carefully because of the potential for unintended circumstances. There are several proposals on paid family leave.

M Edgar - HB641 is about municipalities collecting occupancy fees; it is tied into rooms & meals & is currently proposed at \$2 per room per night. It was all worked out except that the funds would have gone to the general fund, so this issue is being addressed.

of note: on 2/9 the delegation will be holding an open house at the Library from 10 to 12 noon, and welcome all to visit & share their questions/concerns

N Stiles - do you have a sense of how Bushway's bill will be handled? It is difficult when you want to take something away from one of the departments...

M Edgar - this is a new fee being proposed, so it's not taking anything away from the department, it's new money that should go somewhere else.

B Preston believes the occupancy legislation is excessive and wonders how it can be enforced

R Griffin - kudos to all for your care & concern

T Sherman - thanks for inviting us and kudos to this team - will be very powerful

The DES is agreeing with EPA on PFAS levels at 70 per trillion, but some say that is way too high.

Our recommended level is 20 per trillion which agrees with Vermont and Aquarion.

We currently have no real time monitoring of Seabrook Station, as MA has and that is recommended by cancer cluster group. Currently we only have monitoring in Portsmouth and Concord. There is concern about care for mental health and drug misuse patients - 11 towns in our area have no substance abuse services; the hub for care in this area is in Dover. The 2 problems are availability of services and transportation to those services. As chair of the Senate Health & Human Services I may have public hearings to determine service needs in this area. Currently Portsmouth has a few mental health beds but Exeter has none. The Senate is committed to property tax relief, supported by Lou D'Alessandro, Chair of Senate Finance. There is a bill to reestablish environmental illness impacts - will create maps proactively where contamination is found - NH has the highest cancer rate in the country.

Hampton harbor dredging issues so that it will not interfere with commercial fishing and where will the sand go? I will be working with the RPC & Greenway & parks groups to resolve areas of conflict - the Hampton Harbor bridge meeting next week Jan 30th at the Seabrook Community Center at 7pm will look for public input R Griffin spoke of the high incidence of arsenic in our ground water in NH and therefore in private wells, and that our municipal water supply is safer than either bottled water or private wells.

T Sherman - HB 261 directs DES to monitor incidence cancer - NH leads the nation in bladder cancer - we need to connect data on arsenic levels and cancer clusters with overlay maps - we have the data but it isn't connected yet - that may result in finding areas where wells should be tested - goal is to prevent cancer - DHHS doesn't have the resources to deal with health issues, has asked for a response team wish list

R Griffin - the Board of Selectmen meeting Monday night will be devoted to the Rail Trail

T Sherman is working with Scott Bogle of the RPC on the Rail Trail - there are great models for how the presence of a rail trail can lead to revitalization of an area - they promote shops, restaurants and bring \$\$ to an area. This is a Portland to Boston effort, and having Hampton become a part of it will help the town.

- also spoke with Senator Hassan's team (our federal delegation) concerning federal grants about the sewer issue, and will work with the town to get grants for help with unexpected municipal expenses.

### **Treasurer's report** (Housman)

Balance \$7,405.11

### **Old Business**

Vote on members & officers because there was no December meeting:

Dean Merrill - 1 year - moved M Housman, 2nd R Griffin - unanimous  
Nancy Stiles for chair nominated by Dean, second by R Griffin - unanimous  
Dean Merrill for vice-chair - nominated by Fran McMahon, second by B Ladd - unanimous  
Mike Housman for treasurer - nominated by R Griffin, second B Ladd - unanimous

**New Business**

D Merrill announced the speaker for the February meeting will be Samara Ebinger of OSI - she is the principal planner for NH & a FEMA consultant

**Next meeting:**

Feb 28 at 7pm

**Adjourn:**

at 9:04 pm

motion by: B Preston

second by: Rick Griffin

Vote: unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Carnaby, meeting assistant