

HAMPTON PLANNING BOARD

MINUTES

April 19, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Ann Carnaby, Chair
Brendan McNamara, Vice Chair
Tracy Emerick
Sharon Mullen
Ward Galanis, Clerk
Rusty Bridle, Selectman Member
Jason Bachand, Town Planner
Laurie Olivier, Office Manager/Planning

ABSENT: Keith Lessard

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Carnaby commenced the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance and asked the Planning Board to introduce themselves.

II. ATTENDING TO BE HEARD

Presentation: Hampton-Seabrook Estuary Management Plan (Seabrook-Hamptons Estuary Alliance)

Jay Diener appeared with Laura Diemer, Project Manager with FB Environmental and Rayann Dionne, Executive Director of SHEA.

It was noted that Ms. Diemer and the team did a great job on the plan. Ms. Diemer discussed the funding sources.

The watershed and its critical value was discussed. This presentation is available on hamptonnh.gov - "Watch Channel 22".

It was noted that the estuary has national significance and is the 2nd largest estuary in the State. It has the last remaining sand dunes in the State. It provides pivotal connections to Maine and Massachusetts for birds, feeding and nesting, to name a few. Economically, the Towns depend on the estuary for tourism, shell fishing, and flood protection.

The estuary has been altered by human activities. Eco-system function was discussed. Tidal restrictions were discussed. There is a decrease in dunes, roosting, marsh, herring and clams. Everything is decreasing.

Activities with land development are impacting our estuaries.

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Impervious surfaces convey pollutants to the estuaries.

Impacts from climate change was discussed. Air temperature. We see more frequent and intense flooding. Sunny day flooding was discussed.

SHEA did an Estuary Management Plan showing a roadmap moving forward to address issues. Ten years is the time frame they are looking to carry out strategies. This needs to be updated to keep it relevant.

SHEA and partners were recognized. They received community input as well. High school listening sessions took place.

Key management strategies were discussed. High priorities.

Pollutant reduction measures – LID techniques, enhancing buffers, optimize MS4 compliance

Marsh resiliency – stabilizing banks, conserving buffer migration areas, ditch remediation

Local Planning – suggest adding the Estuary Management Plan to each town’s Master Plan

Shellfish management – fund the NH shellfish program, water quality impacts

Habitat improvement and Harbor Navigation – removing barriers to fish passage

Research and networking were discussed. UNH does a lot of research work.

Outreach and community engagement – enhancing public access, kiosks and clean-up days, engaging with the community.

Ms. Dionne said that is excited that the Management Plan is complete. We need the best way to add this to Hampton’s toolbox. The Planning Board could vote at a public hearing to adopt it as a supplement to the Master Plan. Another option is that the Board could vote to accept it as a companion document to consult with when the implementation team is moving forward. It can be considered as they work on implementing the plan. One is a more formal public hearing to adopt, and the other is a general vote to encourage it to be considered moving forward.

The next step is to reference the management plan and incorporate this into documents.

Meeting to review were discussed. SHEA is ready to meet with our Board and provide implementation opportunities.

This requires time, energy, and funding. SHEA is a community-based aid in this regard.

Three communities can share resources. Hampton, Hampton Falls and Seabrook.

BOARD

Ms. Mullen asked them to speak on the importance of the estuary to the Hampton community and the direction it is headed in now.

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Ms. Diemer said the economy is dependent on the estuary. Flood protection with sea level rise – inundating the marsh more and more. Ground water is rising inland. The marsh is flooding out.

Retreat, accommodate, mitigate adapt to flooding was discussed. People maybe needing to move out of the area, etc. was discussed.

Ms. Dionne said this plan ignores political boundaries and looks at the estuary as a whole. The plan would provide communities an opportunity to work in a collaborative manner. This plan would bring communities into alignment with each other.

Mr. Diener encourages the Board to continue to discuss options to incorporate the estuary plan into the planning process. It is important to consider it. We have action steps in the Town Master Plan. The HBAC will have these in their document also. Action steps may be created to see where they are. It will help prioritize actions to benefit Towns and the estuaries.

Ms. Carnaby agrees. We have an implementation committee being formed and they will need to be part of this process.

Mr. Bachand said it was a great presentation.

Frank Enwright appeared. He has a condo on Winnacunnet Road by the estuary. Moving and raising buildings is a good way, in the immediate, but he noted 25 years ago, he looked at studies and projections. He hasn't seen anything done yet. It is going to get worse. It is going to be a mud flat. It is not protecting the marsh. A study was done 15 years ago in Washington. Mary Curry was the local connection. The water is fast-moving in that area; banks are steep. Since we are trying so hard to not impact it, we are impacting it. Egrets started coming back. He sees fewer birds coming through and fewer fish. Striped bass come out as well.

He asked when someone will start doing something. The Town dumped rocks and made it worse. When is Town or State going to do something. He would like an answer.

Mr. Bachand said he unfortunately can't give a definitive answer right now on specific dates. He said there is important work going on right now. We just adopted the Town Master Plan two months ago; the HBAC Beach Master Plan update will be adopted soon. CHAT has issued its recommendations. Public Works has done a lot of work. A lot is happening, and things are coming together, and we need to see where it goes from here. There is important work happening.

Mr. Bachand said we will be looking at specific action items once the Implementation Committee is formed.

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Toni Huesby (sp), Sandpiper Bay Condominiums appeared. She loved hearing the plan for the estuary. In the short version, she didn't see much on erosion. Greg Moore at UNH, is a good connection. He measures erosion and the speed of water. The water comes in quickly and wipes away the shoreline. It impacts where people and animals live. She asked what the goal is.

Ms. Dionne said the larger document can be reviewed. There are grant applications being pursued to look at the salt marsh remediation. Toni (Sandpiper Bay) is working with Jen Hale (DPW Director) to work toward a positive resolution.

Ms. Carnaby said she thinks in the next few months the groups will begin to find common ground.

This information is on SHEA4NH.ORG and a full hard copy of the plan is at the Planning Office as well. She invited people to come out to see this.

Mr. Emerick asked about appendages. If we append this plan, can it be updated by the SHEA group without the Planning Board's involvement as another appendix.

Ms. Dionne said it is set out for 10 years. They are on a similar timeframe (as the Town Master Plan).

Mr. Emerick sees this as a policy problem. We need to know the appendage policy. Ms. Carnaby said the Implementation Committee will have to address this as well.

Having it be a companion document was discussed. That seems to be a good starting point.

Mr. Galanis asked if the plan could be added to the Town website. It was noted that this is an informational document. We have to check with the powers that be to let that happen.

MOTION by Mr. Emerick to accept the Estuary Management Plan as a companion document now to the Master Plan. It is available in the Planning Office.

SECOND by Mr. Galanis.

VOTE: 6 – 0 – 0

MOTION PASSED.

III. CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARINGS

IV. NEW PUBLIC HEARINGS

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V. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF April 5, 2023

It is noted this includes a spelling edit received.

MOVED by Mr. Emerick.

SECOND by Ms. Mullen.

VOTE: 5 – 0 – 1 (Bridle)

MOTION PASSED.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

NH Office of Planning and Development (OPD) Spring 2023 Planning and Zoning Conference – April 29, 2023

Ms. Carnaby discussed the upcoming Planning and Zoning Conference. Mr. Bachand sent this information to the Board. It will be held virtually. There is good information for the Board. It is free. The date is April 26th by 4:00 for registration.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Formation of the Master Plan Implementation Committee (MPIC)

- **Progress Update**
- **Planning Board Appointments**
- **Resident-At-Large Appointments**

Mr. Bachand said several things have happened since the final Steering Committee meeting on March 15th.

It was noted the first meeting of the MPIC is Tuesday, June 13 at 7:00 p.m. in this room (Selectmen's Meeting Room). Meeting dates are reserved for the second Tuesday of the month for the remainder of 2023.

Mr. Bachand and Mr. Emerick appeared before the Board of Selectmen on March 27th to give an overview of the new Master Plan and to discuss the implementation process. They appointed Rusty Bridle to the MPIC and Jim Waddell is the alternate.

An email was sent to other Boards and Commissions to make appointments. They should be completed by early May. Mr. Bachand received confirmation that the Budget Committee has appointed a regular member. The ZBA, Conservation Commission, and the HBAC will all take up their appointments later this month.

Mr. Bachand noted for the Planning Board appointments; there are two seats open, which are one-year renewable.

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Mr. McNamara said we had representatives from other Boards (on the Steering Committee). Are they the same people was asked. It was noted this is a new group. The Steering Committee is dissolved. Mr. McNamara noted that some people with years of experience may not make it. They could be if they are appointed by their Board.

Mr. Bachand said we will have public comment at the MPIC meetings.

Mr. Emerick noted he is not going to run again for the Planning Board next year. His term expires. It was noted he would only need to stay on the MPIC until March. Mr. Emerick agreed he will do it until the next March Town Meeting. Mr. McNamara offered to serve as well.

MOVED by Mr. Galanis (to appoint Mr. Emerick and Mr. McNamara).

SECOND by Ms. Mullen.

VOTE: 6 – 0 – 0

MOTION PASSED.

Mr. Bachand discussed the two-year terms for resident-at-large members. A copy of the posting was included with the Board packets. The Planning Office received eight responses, which were provided to the Board. They are numbered in the order received. Any questions or comments this evening, please refer to the number and not the name. Mr. Lessard is not present tonight. We want to decipher the top 4 choices. He recommends the Board vote on them at the May 3rd meeting. Mr. Bachand will tally them before that meeting. Please send to him (Mr. Bachand) in the next week.

We are again having a Master Plan display at the Hampton Garden Club Plant and Bake Sale taking place on May 20th. We will need to get the table set up for that. Also, Master Plan website improvements are being discussed with IT. Mr. Bachand will continue posting to the usual Town website for now. We are seeing what we can come up with for creative options.

Housing Academy Participation

Mr. Bachand discussed Jennifer Rowden from the RPC need to know the Housing Academy participants. Up to three people from every community are needed to attend. We need at least one member from the Board. Mr. Bachand is participating. Who would like to attend was asked. May 9th is the first meeting. If you can attend 3 or 4 of the meetings, that would be great.

Ms. Mullen would like to do this. During the workday could be an issue. She needs to know if somebody else could maybe attend as well. Maybe appoint one person and then give an alternate. Mr. Galanis could maybe do a webinar. Mr. Galanis said he will do it. It was agreed it will be Ms. Mullen and Mr. Galanis.

MOVED by Mr. McNamara to have Ms. Mullen and Mr. Galanis represent.

SECOND by Mr. Emerick.

VOTE: 6 – 0 – 0

MOTION PASSED.

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Ms. Carnaby discussed the email regarding the HBAC meeting on April 27th. It is a week from tomorrow. It is an all-day event. It starts at 11:00 AM at the bandshell. The presentation is from GEI, the research firm that has conducted the update to the Beach Master Plan on coastal and environment. There will be an hour-long presentation from 11:00 AM to Noon. Concepts will be explained, as will the physical locations of each of the concepts brought forward for issues that are different in the north, middle, and south beach areas. Q&A will take place from 12-12:30 PM. It will be on Channel 22 but for viewing later. This will not be a live broadcast.

Travis (Pryor) will then do a walk through the different sites explaining the rational for the approaches being recommended for sea level rise mitigation.

That evening, at 7:00 PM is the regular monthly HBAC meeting; Mr. Pryor will present a recap of the day.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Emerick to adjourn.

SECOND by Ms. Mullen.

VOTE: 6 – 0 – 0

MOTION PASSED.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Olivier, Office Manager/Administrative Assistant

****PLEASE NOTE****

ITEMS NOT CALLED OR IN PROGRESS BY 10:00 P.M.

MAY BE CONTINUED TO THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING