

HAMPTON PLANNING BOARD

DRAFT MINUTES

November 23, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

Zoom

PRESENT: Tracy Emerick, Chair
Ann Carnaby, Vice Chair
Fran McMahon
Mark Olson
Keith Lessard
James Waddell, Selectman Member
Norman Carpentier, Alternate
Jason Bachand, Town Planner

ABSENT: Alex Loiseau, Clerk
Laurie Olivier, Office Manager/Planning

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Planning Board Chairman Tracy Emerick, has determined that, due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, in order to properly ensure the safety of the public and that of several of the Board members who are within the CDC guidelines needing to take special precautions, this body is authorized to meet electronically. Please note there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, Chairman Emerick is confirming that the Planning Board are: Utilizing Zoom for this Electronic Meeting. The Public may join by using the link or the telephone number listed below. If anyone has a problem, please call 603-929-5913.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84244278747>

Meeting ID: 842 4427 8747

One tap mobile
+16465588656,,84244278747#

Dial by your location
+1 646 558 8656

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. The Governor's State of Emergency criteria regarding the meeting being held electronically was read into the record. Prior to the meeting, the Planning Office gave information to residents on how to access the meeting electronically.

Attendance was taken. All Planning Board members in attendance were at home and no one was present with them. Planning Board Alternate Norman Carpentier was also at home and no one was present with him. For the Master Plan Steering Committee - Brian Warburton, Barbara Kravitz, Sharon Raymond, Tony Ciolfi, and Chuck Rage were all in attendance, at home, and no one was present with them.

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II. ATTENDING TO BE HEARD

➤ **Master Plan Steering Committee – Coastal Resilience Focus Group Meeting**

Mr. Bachand opened the focus group meeting by summarizing the overall process for the Master Plan update. Phase I is being conducted by Milone & MacBroom. Phase II proposals are currently under review, and a consultant should be chosen within the next couple of months. He noted that public participation is an essential part of this entire process, and that we need people's thoughts about how to shape Hampton's future.

Mr. Bachand turned the meeting over to Noah Slovin from Milone & MacBroom, who will be giving a presentation and leading the focus group discussion. It was noted that Nathalie Morison, NHDES Coastal Program is also in attendance.

PRESENTATION

Mr. Slovin began with a PowerPoint presentation (available at the Planning Office). There was an explanation of what a Master Plan is. Coastal resilience is the theme of the focus group. Hazards, vulnerabilities, and adaptation strategies were discussed. Examples of other plans were identified – Portland's Plan 2030 and plaNorfolk 2030. Coastal resilience was defined.

What are we planning for was discussed by Mr. Slovin. Past coastal hazard events were identified. Tide levels and sea level rise planning was discussed. Coastal risk was explained.

Mr. Slovin discussed advancing coastal resilience. He explained the built environment, economy, governance, society & culture, and natural systems in relation to the community. He then identified the four resilience concepts - protect, avoid, retreat, and accommodate. Mr. Slovin proceeded to explain how this all ties together.

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION

The discussion segment of the focus group commenced. **Specific notes from the discussion and Zoom chat box will be compiled for this focus group (and others), and will be used as the plan content is drafted.**

Vulnerability

Mr. Ciolfi – Spoke about sea level rise as long-term.

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Mr. Lessard – Mentioned escape routes.

Ms. Kravitz – Said we should define the future – now vs. longer term.

Mr. Lessard – Asked if we need to change the building codes; strengthen freeboard requirements.

Mr. Emerick – Said he can't get a straight answer on sea level rise. There should be a baseline.

Ms. Carnaby – Said that flooding seems to be from behind the beach (marsh side), not the ocean side.

Mr. Waddell – Discussed flooding from the marsh.

Mr. Emerick – Spoke about elevating homes as important, but what do you do if you can't get there.

Ms. Morison explained flooding occurrences in different areas, particularly the marsh vs. the Atlantic coast side.

Capabilities and Strengths

Mr. Emerick – Stated that he never saw water come over the dunes at Plaice Cove when he lived across the street for many years.

Ms. Carnaby – Asked if the cement seawall helps.

Ms. Morison explained hard seawalls vs. natural solutions such as living shorelines. She noted that concrete walls may scour and contribute to erosion.

Mr. Olson – Cited the Conservation Commission's diligent efforts to reduce impervious surface coverage and maintain the existing wetlands complex.

Mr. Waddell - Asked about pulling living shorelines up to the road.

Ms. Kravitz – Discussed mitigation and looking for mitigation opportunities.

Mr. Coilfi – Suggested the Master Plan could be a place to list specific projects.

Mr. Slovin discussed his perspective on Master Plans. He sees these documents as more of a 30,000-foot view. The CIP is about the specifics.

Mr. Warburton – Discussed the need for having proactive interactions at a high level.

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Mr. Emerick – Asked if building elevation is managed or required by insurance companies.

Mr. Rage – Discussed building upward and the need to target some major projects.

Mr. Lessard – Discussed lifting buildings up.

Ms. Raymond – Stated that specific projects are for the CIP. The Master Plan needs to be a higher-level document, not the details of projects.

Resiliency

Ms. Carnaby – Said we should be looking at a mix of short-term and long-term activities.

Mr. Slovin said that he will be going through his meeting notes to identify our strengths and vulnerabilities.

Mr. Coilfi – Said that he finds specific questions hard to answer on the spot. He would like to see technical information in the Master Plan.

Mr. Emerick – Asked are we looking at this (technical information) now?

Mr. Olson – Reiterated the diligence of the Conservation Commission. They are great advocates.

DEBRIEFING AND WRAP-UP

Mr. Slovin proceeded to the debriefing portion of the meeting. He noted that a number of comments were posted in the Zoom chat box, and he will be going through those later.

Mr. Slovin discussed key takeaways from this evening's discussion. What is the plan timeframe; What are we thinking about; Do we want a higher level view or specifics; What are the hazard and risk changes; What is the effectiveness of dunes vs. hard structures; Need to tap into state agencies and stakeholders; elevating homes. There are others that will be reflected in Mr. Slovin's meeting notes.

Ms. Morison asked the Steering Committee if they would like her to gather and share examples of other coastal hazard master plan chapters. The Steering Committee agreed this would be helpful.

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Mr. Lessard asked Ms. Morison what type of final report NHDES is looking for in comparison to the Town. Ms. Morison explained that it will be vision and coastal management content that can be integrated into the Town's Phase II comprehensive update. There is flexibility.

Mr. Slovin wrapped up the meeting and asked if there were remaining questions or comments. Mr. Emerick suggested working some Vision discussion into the other focus groups to be held. Mr. Coilfi asked how we will engage with the Hampton Walkers, many are not technically able to meet electronically. There may need to be some in-person coordination, and he is happy to help. Mr. Slovin said he could discuss later with Mr. Coilfi.

Mr. Slovin said there are another six focus groups to be held over the next couple of months.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Bachand, Town Planner

****PLEASE NOTE****

**ITEMS NOT CALLED OR IN PROGRESS BY 10:00 P.M.
MAY BE CONTINUED TO THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**