

**State of New Hampshire
Coastal Risks and Hazards Commission (CRHC)**

**Meeting Minutes
Hampton Beach Seashell Pavilion
160 Ocean Blvd.
Hampton, NH
March 21, 2014**

Members in Attendance

Name	Representation
Watters, David	Senator, NH District 4
Borden, Rep. David	Town of New Castle
Becker, Dr. Mimi	Town of Exeter
Bird, Steve	City of Dover
Caron, David	NHMA
Cormier, Robert	Homebuilders and Remodelers
Feighner, Edna	NH Div. of Historical Resources
Fitzgerald, Ryan	Town of Rye
Gilbert, Jennifer	Office of Energy and Planning, Johnson Hall
Howard, Kirsten	DES
Huber, Richard	Alternate, Town of Exeter
Kinner, Peter	Town Greenland/UNH Coastal Response Research
Kirshen, Paul	UNH
Melanson, Paul	Town of Hampton Falls
Miller, Steve	City of Portsmouth
Morgan, Thomas	Town of Newington, NH
Nyhan, Kevin	NHDOT/ Bur. Of Envirmt.
O'Sullivan, Michael	Town of Madbury
Pimental, Kyle	Strafford Reg. Planning Commission
Quiram, Vicki	Asst. Comm. DES
Rice, John	Seacoast Board Realtors
Riley, Cory	NH Fish & Game, Great Bay NERR
Ryan, John	Portsmouth
Sinnott, Cliff (Chairman CRHC)	Rockingham Planning Commission
Stanwood, Sabrina	Div. of Forests and Lands, DRED
Stephenson, Roger	Town of Stratham
Winslow, Phil	Town of Rye
Wolek, Gail	NH Dept. of Res. & Econ. Dev- Parks & Rec.
Wood, David (Clerk CRHC)	Town of Hampton

Minutes

- Cliff Sinnott presided as chairperson and seeing a quorum called the meeting to order at 10:07 AM. There were no members communicating by telephone or other electronic means. Introductions were made by those in attendance.
- Chairman Sinnott noted that Gail Wolek, who had arranged for the meeting location, was not able to attend, but thanked her in her absence for her hospitality and the opportunity to meet in the Seashell

Pavillion. Mr. Sinnott motioned approval of the minutes from the meeting 01/17/14 Dave Wood seconded.

- **Clerk report:** David Wood of Hampton and clerk of the Commission informed those in attendance that he plans on resigning that post effectively as soon as we can get a replacement. It has been a very informative and interesting assignment but he would like someone else to have access to the multitude of information coming into the commission. He plans on staying on the Committee member representing Hampton. Cliff was hoping to receive applications for Dave's replacement and he hoped the replacement could be made by the April meeting.
- **Introduction to the Seashell Ocean Front Pavilion.** Tom Mansfield, Architect Design Development and maintenance of DRED gave a comprehensive overview of the design of the Seashell and of the work that has been done at the Pavilion and beach areas of Hampton beach. He noted that, regrettably projected sea level rise was not accounted for in the building design. He is certain it would be if designed today.
- Gail mentioned that from a historical perspective our seacoast has treasures valuable from both a State and National level. She mentioned Fort Stark and how important funding will be for mitigation efforts. She also stated that not only the seacoast but inland areas such as trails will be impacted by climate change.
- From an operations standpoint she stated that in the event of an emergency if the expense is over \$2,500. It must go before the Governor and Executive Council which can delay the work. She also mentioned that projects over \$250,000.00 must be turned over to Public Works. They are requesting that both \$ amounts be increased so they can continue to manage projects within their own Department.
- She stated that the Corp of Engineers has requested our planning department to provide them a list of our assets that could be impacted from climate change. Senator Waters asked what level of water rise were the Engineers using and she thought between 18"-24". 60% of Federal grant monies are deemed for local use and 40% stays at the state level.
- Historic sites are very concerned about climate change as well and wants to be involved and offer assistance whenever possible..
- **National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Jennifer Gilbert NH Program Manager**
- Jennifer explained the status of the program and an update on new flood maps which hopefully will be available by mid April. Our vulnerability to current flooding will be shown on these maps. Her program is concerned with flood insurance and providing mapping which determine what flood plan that you are located in. If you build below requirements you can expect increased premiums as a result. 214 NH communities are currently involved in the program. When building your lowest level floor must be above the 100 year flood plan. Increasing that free board height and your distance from the water's edge will reduce insurance premiums. The Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 was designed to phase out subsidies to properties built below current standards and where premiums do not equate to the actual risk. The Flood Affordability Act, just passed, rolls back some of those changes and delays others.
- Jennifer stated that her group will be involved in an outreach effort to inform NH Communities of the changes.
- **Summary of NH Flood Management Commission Study (HB648) report. Steve Couture, NHDES Coastal Program Manager**
- Steve presented the Committee with a status of the study. We need to increase the ability for State and Municipalities to manage storm water issues for minimizing impacts to various communities and individual property owners. Steve will also be attending the next Steering Committee on 04/04/14 to talk about possible support from the NH Coastal Program on legal research and other needs.
- **Science and Technology Panel. Dr. Paul Kirshen UNH. Paul Gave the full Commission an interim report of the status of the panel.** This committee consists of 10 members who are considered experts in their field. At the recommendation of Representative Rice a person was asked to join the group who might have differing views and his name is Tom Wysmuller. Chairman Sinnott

agreed with that decision because there are some folks who are not convinced this is a man made problem and it would be helpful for the Commission to here opposing viewpoints. Much discussion revolved around likely ranges of Sea Level Rise and storm surge. The subcommittee will have a more comprehensive report this summer.

- There are much more extensive presentations made by the aforementioned speakers which will be accessible at our Website at nherhc.stormsmart.org
- **Proposal to Georgetown Climate Center**
- Cliff gave an update on the grant request submitted by our Commission. The opportunity was to obtain in-kind legal assistance on review of Statutes and what is being done in other States. The number of requests was heavier than anticipated and they were only able to select a small number of participants and we were not one of them. GCC left open the possibility of further round of assistance where we would be given priority. When further along in our work we may be able to narrow the scope of our request and review results from the projects selected.

*Respectfully submitted,
David Wood
Clerk CRHC*