

NEW HAMPSHIRE COASTAL RISK AND HAZARDS COMMISSION
(RSA 483-E)

COMMISSION MEETING

**Friday, March 18, 2016
9:30AM – 11:00AM**

BROWN'S LOBSTER POUND
407 NH Highway 286
Seabrook, NH 03874

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to Order & Welcome to Seacoast Legislators – *Cliff Sinnott, CRHC Chair*

- Meeting called to order at 9:36am.
- Cliff Sinnott introduced himself. Mentioned that this is the 20th meeting of the Commission, and it's fitting that it is a special meeting to release the draft report that the members have worked on for over a year. Brown's is a symbolic place where the Commission held the meeting where it received the STAP report. Today we have invited Seacoast Legislators to receive our draft report. The Commission will be looking for lots of feedback on the report. Cliff thanked Senator Stiles for again arranging the venue.
- Participants introduced themselves.

2. Welcome to Seabrook, *Don Hawkins, Seabrook CRHC Rep., & Seabrook Planning Board*

- Don Hawkins thanked everyone for coming. Stated that he is a reluctant warrior, but not a reluctant planner which is why he is involved. Welcomed participants to Seabrook for kick off of the report. Explained his connection to this issue based on where he lives. Oriented participants to the vulnerabilities at Brown's Lobster Pound. Explained Seabrook's involvement in vulnerability assessments and planning. Mentioned the overwhelming nature of the problem and the importance of making it local. Thrilled when I heard legislature established the Commission, to give us a path forward. Explained that the town is collaborating on many fronts.

3. Approval of Minutes from February 19, 2016 Meeting MOTION TO APPROVE (*Attachment*)

- Cliff called for a motion to approve the February meeting minutes, with a few typo corrections. Senator Stiles made a motion and Senator Watters seconded.
- Minutes approved. Representative Fred Rice abstained.

4. Draft Report Release

A. Opening Remarks

Senator Watters and Senator Stiles gave opening remarks and spoke about the reasons the Commission was established

B. Overview of CRHC Process and Report

Cliff provided an overview of the Commission and discussed the process and results of the Commission's work. He summarized the content of the report. He asked participants to read the draft report and provide their comments. He thanked Commission members for their time

in assisting with the report, particularly the agencies that devoted significant staff time to the effort.

C. Panel: Commission Member Perspectives

- Phil Winslow explained the relevance to the Town of Rye.
- Steve Bird connected the effort to the City of Dover and incorporating the recommendations into projects planned on their waterfront.
- Senator Nancy Stiles mentioned the importance of enabling legislation to allow flexibility in local implementation.
- Senator David Watters commended the legislative partnership among seacoast legislators on this issue and model for making progress.
- Kevin Nyhan connected the issues to NHDOT and our transportation networks and said the NHDOT can prepare to coastal flooding provided it has good state level policies and guidance.
- Jonathan Kipp discussed the Commission's work in the framework of risk management and said the Commission's recommendations make common sense and are consistent with that approach.

Question and answer period:

- Rep. Borden mentioned that he's hoping we really can find a way that this excellent report helps build our knowledge base over time. This static report foundational document, need to keep accumulating knowledge.
 - Senator Stiles responded that one recommendation is that the science report is reviewed every five years.
- Rep. Rice mentioned the importance of no regrets actions. Mentioned that the report lays out a contingency plan. Mentioned importance of leading with storm surge because we know what that brings, we've seen that before.
- Rep Wayne Burton asked if any thought was given to increase authority of planning commissions?
 - Cliff Sinnott responded with an explanation to the group of the planning commission role of providing regionally consistent, objective advice to local governments to help them act in ways that are collaborative.
 - Steve Bird mentioned that many of these issues do have to be dealt with regionally. Planning commissions play a crucial role in keeping ball moving forward.
 - Phil Winslow mentioned that we pride ourselves in local control. We look for best practices together. Better to push up than to push down.

5. Next Steps: Community meetings, public comment process, legislative presentation, other

- Nathalie Morison presented information about how to access, share, and comment on the report.

6. Other Business

No other business.

7. Adjourn

Watters, moved to adjourn 10:59am. Meeting adjourned. Meeting was followed by mingling and chowder provided by Senator Stiles.