

General Committee Meeting

June 25, 2025

10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

Attendance

Matthew Dow & Susan Sama (Acton), Jessica Kerr (Arlington), Rajit Gupta (Ashland), Heidi Porter (Bedford), Sara Schaffer (Brookline), Mike Greene (Burlington), Flor Amaya (Chelsea), Melanie Dineen (Concord), Sam Menard (Dedham), Gael Varsa (Dover), Sabrina Firicano, Krista Costello, Rana Wehbe (Everett), Bill Murphy (Framingham), Nancy Funder (Hanover), Shaun McAuliffe & Simone Carter (Hopkinton), Lauren Antonelli (Hudson), Alicia McCartin (Lexington), Francis Dagle & Elise Fornaro (Littleton), Paige Ferriter (Marlborough), John McVeigh & Sarah Ward (Millis), Tim McDonald & Ginnie Chacon-Lopez (Needham), Lisa Heyer (Newton), Stacey Lane (Norwood), Jae Cho (Quincy), Adrienne Maguire (Revere), Linda Callan (Sharon), Melissa Reniri (Walpole), Abbey Myers (Watertown), Karen Dacampo (Winchester), Alyson Roche (Woburn), Eric Olsen, Jackson Lieb, Michaela Bucca, Paul Martin, Ingrid Maurice Knowles, & Lois Luniewicz (MRC), Kerry Clark & Teri Clover (MRPC), Garrett Simonsen & Steven Mauzy (4AB PHEP)

Meeting Minutes

- Tim McDonald (Needham) opened the meeting at 10:05 am.

I. Approval of May 28th GC Meeting Minutes

- Shaun (Hopkinton) made a motion, seconded by Matthew (Acton), to accept the meeting minutes – motion approved.

II. HMCC Updates

- Kerry (HMCC) provided updates on budget closeout for BP1, noting some unprocessed requests that will be resubmitted in BP2. He mentioned ongoing efforts to ensure contractor continuity. Terri (HMCC) reported on the HMCC stakeholder meeting and the finalization of the hazard scoring report. Top hazards this year were: blister agent, ice storm, pandemic flu, cyber attack, and tornado. In the recent drill, the region had a 73% response rate; state-wide the completion was 57%.

III. MDPH Updates

- Felicia (MDPH OPEM) provided updates on federal funding for BP2, which will be partially funded at 75% by July 1st with the remaining 25% expected in September-October. She noted that CDC and ASPR funding has been secured through June 2026, and explained that all spending must now be defended according to a new executive order. The federal COVID-19 test kit program concluded on June 3rd.

IV. Planner Updates

- Steven (PHEP) reported on a successful hurricane training day in June, attended by 79 people, and discussed the development of hurricane community profiles and best practices compendium as supplementary planning tools. Garrett (PHEP) outlined the public health preparedness and response framework, including a multi-year integrated preparedness plan, and announced plans for discussion-based exercises in BP2 on public health's role when a hazard creates debris. The group also touched on NACCHO reimbursements, with Steven noting that paperwork had been submitted and checks were pending.
- Garrett presented a comprehensive plan for a community-level exercise required of all 60 cities and towns, with a deadline of October 31st. The exercise aims to assess readiness and identify gaps in disaster debris management planning, with multidisciplinary participation from public health, emergency management, and public safety representatives. Garrett outlined a five-step implementation plan from July to December, including community surveys, planning meetings, and the development of an after-action report. The team anticipates most communities have little or no debris readiness, and the planners will provide tailored technical assistance to help communities participate effectively.

V. MRC Updates

- Eric (MRC) shared that the MRCs are still learning about what municipalities will be asking of volunteers during a sheltering emergency. A regional shelter exercise is planned for October, where volunteers will practice various shelter roles, and Eric invited coordinators to share existing shelter plans to use as templates. Mike (Burlington) reported on their cooling center operations and volunteer recruitment success. Jackson (NC-8) discussed a training workshop and upcoming September training day pending grant funding. Ingrid updated on the search for a new BME staff member for MetroEast, and Paul (MetroWest) shared their experience with cooling shelter preparations, noting no significant need for volunteer support during recent heat waves.

VI. New Business

- Tim (Needham) announced his departure as Executive Committee co-chair, with Michelle and Shaun taking over for the next budget period. Several members expressed gratitude to Tim for his service.

VII. Vote and Adjourn

- Melissa (Walpole) motioned to adjourn; Rajit (Ashland) seconded that motion- motion passed. Motion to approve the minutes passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:59 am.