



General Committee Meeting

February 25, 2026

10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

Attendance

Matthew Dow, Penelope Funaiole & Susan Sama (Acton), Kylee Foley (Arlington), Rajit Gupta (Ashland), Jackie Barmashi (Bedford), Sara Schaffer (Brookline), Flor Amaya (Chelsea), Katie Stanislawzyk & Melanie Dineen (Concord), Sam Menard (Dedham), Gale Varsa (Dover), Krista Costello & Rana Wehbe (Everett), Bill Murphy (Framingham), Scott Moles (Holliston), Shaun McAuliffe & Simone Carter (Hopkinton), Lauren Antonelli (Hudson), Alicia McCartin (Lexington), Trish McGean (Lincoln), Paige Ferriter (Marlborough), Casey Mellin (Maynard) John McVeigh (Millis), Caroline Kinsella (Milton), Tim McDonald, Ginnie Chacon-Lopez & Julie McCarthy (Needham), Shin-Yi Lao & Shemeka Hill (Newton), Abbie Atkins (Norwood), Jae Cho (Quincy), Linda Callan (Sharon), Katie Betts (Sudbury), Melissa Reniri (Walpole), Moira Carter (Wayland), Kelly Pawluczzonek (Weston), Alyson Roche (Woburn), Eric Olsen, Jackson Lieb, Lois Luniewicz, Paul Martin, Michaela Bucca (MRC), Kerry Clark & Teri Clover (MRPC), Garrett Simonsen & Steven Mauzy (4AB PHEP)

Meeting Minutes

- Tim McDonald (Needham) opened the meeting at 10:04 am.

I. Approval of January 28th GC Meeting Minutes

- Alicia (Lexington) made a motion, seconded by Ginnie (Needham), to accept the meeting minutes – motion approved.

II. HMCC Updates

- Kerry (HMCC) shared the budget status, noting we are at 55% of spending with a surplus of \$5,700. He mentioned ongoing expenses, including salary, conferences, and contractual work, and highlighted the need for a budget modification to cover unexpected GoDaddy expenses. Budget modifications for all programs under the HMCC are due on Friday for DPH to review.
- Teri (HMCC) shared that the next HMCC stakeholder meeting will be held virtually on March 18th at 10am, featuring a presentation from the Boston FBI on responding to bomb threats and swatting hoaxes, followed by updates from DPH and MEMA on planning efforts for the Boston Marathon and FIFA World Cup. Teri confirmed that the FBI training on Microsoft Teams can accommodate several hundred attendees.

III. MDPH Updates

- Felicia provided updates on the current activation of the Emergency Support Function 8 (ESF-8) desk due to the storm, staffing at the State Emergency Operations Center, and the CDC Notice of Funding Opportunity for Budget Period 3. MDPH’s application for funding for the next fiscal year is due on April 17th, and a concurrence vote will be needed once BP3 deliverables are determined by MDPH.

IV. Planner Updates

- Garrett (PHEP) provided updates on the local public health emergency response frameworks, noting that 75% of communities had submitted their frameworks, and draft after-action reports were sent to communities for review by March 11th.
- Steven (PHEP) provided updates on two Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication related initiatives. A training from the CDC is scheduled for March 24th, which will be hosted as a virtual viewing party followed by an in-person discussion. This training will deepen our understanding of CERC principles, and provide an opportunity to practice using communication techniques. On May 7th, Eliza Coll will join the coalition again to facilitate a workshop for a regional CERC guide. This regional guide will expand on a local-level CERC guide that was written and workshopped with the coalition in 2023.
- Garrett reminded attendees about quarterly notification drills conducted by DPH, which may require updating 24-7 contact information on WebEOC. If the drill does not request 24/7 updates, communities will need to complete the quarterly update requirement within WebEOC before the end of March.

V. MRC Updates

- The meeting covered updates from regional MRC units. Jackson updated that MetroEast has deployed volunteers to a shelter in Somerville for the third time, and the unit has also recently completed Stop the Bleed training. NC-8 will host a CPR training in March and animal first aid and sheltering in May. Central Middlesex MRC finalized their advisory committee’s Standard Operating Procedures and completed outreach to the municipalities in Bedford and Winchester. The Brookline MRC recently engaged in a discussion about mass care with the town and is preparing for the marathon. Paul from MetroWest shared an upcoming radio exercise and assistance to other units with volunteers for storm-related deployments. Michaela from Middlefolk also highlighted volunteer and sheltering assistance on the South Shore.

VI. New Business

- No new business.

VII. Vote and Adjourn



- Tim (Needham) motioned to adjourn; Sara (Brookline) seconded that motion. Motions to approve the minutes and to adjourn passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:52 am.