



Metro Regional Coalition Agenda

October 11, 2022

Noon to 1:30 pm

Note Different Location - Scarborough Town Hall

259 US-1

Scarborough, ME 04070

This meeting will be conducted in person only. A light lunch will be served. RSVPs are requested.

1. Welcome and introductions (5 minutes)

Chair Michael Foley will call the meeting to order and ask attendees to briefly introduce themselves.

2. Acceptance of minutes from the September 13, 2022 meeting (Attachment A)

3. Public Comment (3 minutes per person)

Residents of the region are invited to share up to 3 minutes of comment on any topic, including items on the agenda.

4. Presentation on The Downs project in Council Chambers (30 minutes)

Staff report: Scarborough Town Manager Tom Hall and Downs Project Manager Dan Bacon from M&R Holdings will share a presentation on The Downs project. Members will get an up close understanding of the project and have an opportunity to ask questions.

Action: Information and discussion regarding The Down's progress to date.

5. Bus Tour of the Downs (45 minutes)

Staff report: Members will have a guided bus tour of the project by Tom Hall and Dan Bacon, viewing the development that's been completed, and the locations of future investment.

Action: In person visit to the project.

6. Wrap Up at Town Hall (15 minutes)

Staff report: At the end of the bus tour we'll return to Town Hall for any final questions or discussion.

Action: Information exchange.

7. Adjourn

Upcoming Meetings (all Noon to 1:30 pm both in person and remote via Zoom)

November 8, 2022

December 13, 2022

January 10, 2023

February 14, 2023

March 14, 2023

April 11, 2023

May 9, 2023

June 20, 2023

DRAFT

Metro Regional Coalition Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2022

In Attendance:

Name	Affiliation
Michael Foley, Chair	Westbrook
Jerre Bryant	Westbrook
Nathan Poore	Falmouth
Pete LaFond	Falmouth
Amy Kuhn	Falmouth
Kevin Jensen	Gorham
Virginia Wilder-Cross	Gorham
Scott Morelli	South Portland
Matt Sturgis	Cape Elizabeth
Kate Snyder	Portland
Danielle West	Portland
Jim Gailey	Cumberland County
Sarah Lawrence	Office of Representative Pingree
Gail Kezer	Office of Senator King
For GPCOG	Kristina Egan, Chris Hall, Tom Bell

1. Welcome and introductions

Michael Foley called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm and welcomed everyone.

2. Acceptance of minutes from the June 23, 2022 meeting

Mike Foley moved acceptance of the minutes of the June 23, 2022 MRC meeting without objection.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Asylum Housing Crisis Progress Report

Kristina Egan gave a brief update on the continuing progress of GPCOG's work over the summer to advance regional temporary shelter facilities for asylum seekers. Progress includes continued discussions on developing a site in our region, and another discussion about a possible campus location outside our region, as well as GPCOG's recent application to the City of Portland for ARPA funding to support the Safe in Maine effort, which has also received financial contributions from the Cape Elizabeth

and Westbrook Councils. Belinda Ray, who leads the work for GPCOG, was unavailable for the meeting but will join the next MRC meeting with a fuller report.

Danielle West updated members on how the crisis has evolved over the summer. New arrivals continue to come to Portland and the region at a steady rate, and people are dispersing to families, friends, etc., making support from the Maine Immigrant Rights Coalition even more important and valuable.

Scott Morelli updated members on South Portland's ongoing efforts, and looked forward to discussions with the Governor's Office on future state support for asylum seekers and municipalities.

5. Metro Regional Coalition Work Plan for 2022-23

GPCOG staff drafted a proposed 2022-2023 MRC work plan for member review and approval (see Attachment A). The work plan is centered on three outcomes:

- Continuing work to expand housing options for everyone struggling to afford a home,
- Advancing regional homelessness solutions, and
- To better welcome and retain asylum seekers in our region.

Chris Hall presented the goals and action items from the plan. Members discussed each goal and action. During review of the work plan the following comments were made:

- Efforts to reform General Assistance will require close collaboration and consultation between MRC municipalities, likely including a smaller working group and one or more full group work sessions, all in coordination with the MMA.
- A new piece of legislation will likely be needed, prepared in coordination with the Governor's Office and legislative leaders. That bill will need statewide support.
- The outcomes of the November election at the State House will need to be a part of any GA reform strategy.
- Members agreed that the Work Plan is appropriately focused, and agreed that other priorities like transportation may need to be left to other venues, including PACTS.

After discussion Virginia Wilder-Cross moved to accept the Work Plan as presented and Matt Sturgis seconded the motion. A roll call was held. All members present voted yes, except for abstentions from Gail Kezer and Sarah Lawrence.

6. Adjourn

At 1:02 pm Chair Foley adjourned the meeting by acclamation at 12:55 pm.