



DRAFT

Metro Regional Coalition Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2022

In Attendance:

Name	Affiliation
Scott Morelli	South Portland
Susan Gillis	Cape Elizabeth
Virginia Wilder-Cross	Gorham
Ephrem Paraschak	Gorham
Kevin Jensen	Gorham
Michael Foley	Westbrook
Jerre Bryant	Westbrook
Kate Snyder	Portland
Anne McGuire	Portland
Tom Hall	Scarborough
Gail Kezar	Office of Senator King
Guests	
Margaret Angell Kate Simmons	Roux Institute
For GPCOG:	Kristina Egan, Chris Hall, Tom Bell, Belinda Raye

1. Welcome and introductions

Chris Hall called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm and welcomed everyone. He extended apologies from Amy Kuhn and Nathan Poore who were unexpectedly detained in another meeting. Attendees did quick introductions.

2. Acceptance of minutes from the February 8, 2022 meeting

Tom Hall moved acceptance of the minutes of the February 8, 2022 MRC meeting. Susan Gillis seconded. The motion passed by acclamation – all voted in favor.

3. Public Comment

Ken Capron introduced himself to our guests from the Roux Institute.

4. Roux Institute Presentation

Margaret Angell, the Roux Institute's Head of Partnerships and Strategic Initiatives, and Kate Simmons, Director of Partnerships, joined us to discuss Roux's strategic direction in our region and the ways in which Roux and the municipal community can partner.

Margaret's slide presentation can be viewed [here](#). She framed Roux's work in Maine as creating an Opportunity Engine for the state by creating a talent pipeline, providing research expertise, accelerating the creation of high-growth ventures, and building purpose-driven partnerships.

Margaret described Roux's four research domains, and their eight learning domains. Combined, these areas of focus are already serving our region's employers, bringing industry, academic, and community leadership together to support new economic opportunities. Over the next four years, Roux intends to host 1750 new learners (graduate students and certificate earners), accelerate 50 new start-up enterprises, engage over 200 Roux team members, and work with 100 or more new external partners.

Roux is part of a Build Back Better EDA grant application that, if funded for implementation, will bring biotech manufacturing and support from Massachusetts to Maine by focusing on prototyping, entrepreneurial support, applied research, and diversity, equity and inclusion. Margaret also spoke about Roux's plans for its Portland campus, and their ongoing work to balance community needs and the space requirements of Roux's growth.

In Q&A Margaret emphasized Roux's desire to work with local development officials to make sure the start-ups and other economic opportunities generated at Roux have a chance to grow in our region.

Margaret concluded by outlining how Roux looks forward to partnering with municipalities, including offering educational opportunities to citizens and municipal staff, developing new talent to fill the region's workforce pipeline, training entrepreneurs to catalyze business creation, and providing world class data research to solve real world problems.

5. Housing Crisis – Asylum Seekers in Portland

Portland Mayor Kate Snyder provided members with an update that included a review of current number of unhoused people being served by the City, good news around extended FEMA funding to defray City costs of homelessness services, and help from Governor Mills and the legislature.

Members discussed the need for greater state and regional support. Staff reported on cautious progress in the MRC work to find innovative solutions to the temporary shelter problem, and locations for implementing innovative strategies. Additional progress is expected, and a new report will be made to MRC at the April meeting.

6. Adjourn

At 1:33 pm Amy Kuhn adjourned the meeting by acclamation.