



**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2023**

The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of The New England Council, Inc. (the “Council” or the “Corporation”) held a meeting on September 18, 2023, at the Union Club in Boston, MA, for the purpose of discussing Council operations for 2023 and for the transaction of any other business that may properly come before the meeting. The meeting began at 12:02 p.m. and ended at approximately 1:45 p.m.

The following committee members, all of whom are Directors of the Corporation, were present at the meeting which was conducted in person with a call-in option, and constituted a quorum pursuant to the Bylaws of the Council:

James Brett; Becca Gould; John Hailer; Patricia Jacobs; Dennis Kearney; Dennis Leonard; Paul Mattera; Kenneth Quigley; John Stadler

The meeting was called in accordance with the Bylaws of the Council. Notice was mailed to the Directors via electronic mail in accordance with these Bylaws. James Brett presided and acted as Secretary.

The Secretary called the meeting to order.

I. General Business

A. Approval of Minutes

Upon motion duly made, seconded and decided by unanimous vote, the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on May 4, 2022, were approved as presented.

B. Nominating New Board Members

At the meeting the nomination of certain individuals to serve on the Council’s Board of Directors was considered. After further discussion, it was decided that it has become necessary, for the benefit of the Corporation, to so nominate these individuals. Upon motion duly made, seconded and decided by unanimous vote, the Executive Committee adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the bylaws of the Council were amended to increase the number of Directors that may be elected from sixty (60) to one hundred (100) Directors;

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee, in its capacity as Nominating Committee, has determined that it is in the best interests of the Council to nominate for election to the Board a Council member;

WHEREAS, a Council member has indicated a willingness to serve on the Council's Board;

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee has reviewed the member's qualifications to so serve;

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee has determined that the member meets the qualifications for Directors set forth in Section 2 of Article III of the Council's bylaws, and would make valuable contributions to the Board and to the governance of the Council; and

WHEREAS, such vacancies on the Board resulting from its enlargement may be filled by the Board as provided in Section 3 of Article III of the Council's bylaws, as amended, with each such Director holding office until a successor is elected and qualified at the next meeting of the members at which Directors are elected, it is therefor

RESOLVED, that the following Council member is nominated for the Board's approval to serve as Directors of the Council:

1. Patricia Jacobs
2. Wayne Lesperance, New England College
3. Maura O'Brien, Ahold Delhaize USA
4. Jeffrey Tengel, Rockland Trust

with such members holding office until a successor is elected and qualified at the next meeting of the members at which Directors are elected; and it is

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the officers of the Corporation are hereby authorized to perform any such acts, including execution of any and all documents and certificates, as such officers shall deem necessary or advisable, to carry out the purposes and intent of this Resolution. The Executive Committee will report this action to the full Board of Directors at its next scheduled meeting.

C. Proposed Bylaw Amendments

President Brett explained that the Council had identified several minor updates needed to the organization's bylaws. Executive Committee member Kenneth Quigley explained the changes and the process for making these amendments, which includes a vote by the full board later this year.

II. Financial Update

President Brett provided an updated financial summary, as attached to these minutes.

III. Membership Update

President Brett provided the following membership update:

- Membership growth and retention continues to be strong despite the ongoing economic challenges
- To date in 2023: we have secured 59 new members, representing \$266,500 in new dues revenue.
- We have an additional 14 new members committed, representing \$57,000 in new dues revenue.
- That brings our current new dues total to \$323,500.
- Our budgeted new membership revenue goal for 2023 is \$276,000, so we are thrilled to have already surpassed that goal with still three months remaining in the year.
- As always, we continue to pursue a number of promising prospects, and resignations continue to be very low.

IV. Policy & Program Update

President Brett summarized the ongoing work of the NEC's policy committees:

Energy & Environment Committee

- In May, the Committee hosted a very well attended special event in Boston, "The Economic Impact of Climate Change," featuring keynote remarks from Senator Ed Markey. The program also featured a panel discussion with Council members who highlighted how different industries are working to combat climate change.
- In June, the committee hosted a meeting with the new Massachusetts Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs, Rebecca Tepper.
- And we have extended an invitation to ISO-New England CEO Gordon Van Welie to speak to the Council sometime before the end of the year.

Financial Services Committee

- In July, the committee send a letter of support for legislation that would update electronic delivery rules for financial institutions that was introduced earlier this year by Rep. Auchincloss and is supported by many of our members.
- And just last week, we submitted comments on a proposed rule on supplemental benefits that is of concern to many of our members in the insurance sector. This proposed rule focuses on short-term limited duration health products that have extended into their supplemental product

space. If enacted, the rule would negatively impact Council members in this market, and our letter outlined those concerns.

- The committee is also leading efforts to organize a Council event this fall looking at the affordable housing crisis in the region and the impact it is having across the economy. We have invited Senator Elizabeth Warren to deliver keynote remarks, and the event will also feature a panel discussion with Council members who will highlight their own efforts to mitigate the impacts of the shortage of affordable housing.

Healthcare Committee

- The Committee is in the process of planning an event later this year focused on the public and private sector efforts to address behavioral health throughout the region. We have invited both Senator Hassan and Rep. Kuster – both leaders on this issue – to speak at the event, which would also feature a panel discussion with NEC members in the behavioral health field.
- We have also extended an invitation to Dr. Naheed Bhadlia, founding director of the BU Center for Emerging and Infections Diseases Policy & Research, to speak to the committee. Dr. Bhadlia recently completed a one-year stint at the White House as senior policy advisor for global COVID response.

Higher Education Committee

- This spring, the Council partnered with NEBHE to release a series of economic impact fact sheets which detail the impact of the higher education sector on each New England state, and the region as a whole. These resources were provided to all New England Congressional offices, and area also available to our members for their use.
- Last week, the committee hosted a very well attended briefing of the findings of the New England Commission on the Future of Higher Education in Prisons, featuring a presentation by NEBHE and The Educational Justice Institute at MIT.

Technology & Innovation Working Group

- Immediately following this meeting, we will be hosting the next event in our New England Innovates series, this time taking a look at the blue economy. NOAA Administrator Dr. Rick Spinrad will deliver keynote remarks, followed by a panel discussion with Council members who are leaders in marine technology and innovation. We are expecting some 150 guests at the New England Aquarium.
- A top priority for the working group in recent months has been advocating for a fix to a tax code change that went into effect for the 2022 tax year. Under the tax reform law passed under President Trump in 2017, businesses are no longer able to fully deduct R&D expenses each year, and instead must spread those expenses over five years. Earlier this year, the Council endorsed

legislation introduced in the Senate by Sen. Maggie Hassan, and in the House by Rep. John Larson, that would reverse that change. Later this month, we are convening a Hill day where NEC members from different industries will spend the day meeting with Congressional offices to advocate for this bill.

- The Committee is also in the process of finalizing a meeting next month with former FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler, who will discuss the future of the digital economy and the regulation of technology.

Transportation & Infrastructure Committee

- In June, the Committee sent a letter to the New England House delegation in support of legislation to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration. We are closely monitoring developments in the Senate, and plan to endorse similar legislation once there is movement in that chamber.
- Next month, the committee will meet with House T&I Committee member Rep. Jake Auchincloss. The meeting will be held in conjunction with a Capitol Hill Report breakfast here in Boston.

Trade Working Group

- In July, the working group met with Jonathan Bosworth, the Chief of Staff to Rep. Earl Blumenauer, the Ranking Member on the House Ways & Means Subcommittee on Trade. Jonathan updated members on a variety of trade policy matters before the committee.

V. Events Update

Council President Brett provided the following update.

- To date this year, the Council has hosted over 35 in person events throughout New England and in Washington, DC.
- Recent guests in our Capitol Hill Report series have included Representatives John Larson, Seth Magaziner, and Jared Golden, as well as Senator Maggie Hassan.
- In DC, our Capital Conversations series continues to be popular among our members and members of Congress alike. Most recently, we hosted Senator Chris Murphy, and a special program with several leaders from the New Democrat Coalition.

- Our Coffee with the Chief series in DC also continues to be popular, and we've heard most recently from the Democratic Staff Director on the Senate Finance Committee, and the Chief of Staff to Senator Peter Welch.
- As the New Hampshire primary season fast approaches, we hosted former UN Ambassador Nikki Haley at Politics & Eggs back in May.
- And just earlier this month, we hosted an excellent program with the new CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, Susan Collins.

Upcoming Events

- We have a very busy fall lineup planned.
- Here in New England, we have Capitol Hill Reports planned over the next two months Representatives Lori Trahan, Jake Auchincloss, Seth Moulton, and Katherine Clark, as well as Senator Sheldon Whitehouse.
- In DC, we are looking forward to a Coffee with the Chief with Rep. Magaziner's chief of staff, as well as a Capital Conversations breakfast with Rep. Pappas next month.
- And next week, we'll be hosting Massachusetts' new AG Andrea Campbell for her first appearance before the Council.

Annual Celebration

- And of course, our 2023 Annual Celebration is just over a month away.
- This year's event will be on Thursday, October 26, and it will again be held at the Omni Boston Hotel in the Seaport.
- Our dinner chairs this year are Cain Hayes, the CEO of Point32Health, and Katherine Craven, Chief Administrative and Financial Officer at Babson College.
- We are looking forward to celebrating four incredible New Englanders of the Year:
 - Latoyia Edwards, Anchor at NBC Boston and NECN
 - Dr. Jim O'Connell, President of the Boston Healthcare for the Homeless Program
 - Pamela Reeve, Chair of the Board at American Tower
 - Marty Walsh, Former Secretary of Labor/Boston Mayor

- To date, we have already secured \$1,899,500 in sponsorships from 175 businesses and organizations.
- Our budgeted goal was \$1.4 million, so we are thrilled to have surpassed that goal, and are confident we will continue to raise additional funds in the remaining weeks before the event.

VI. Communications Update

President Brett provided the following update regarding the Council's communications efforts:

Media Coverage

- We continued to receive great media coverage of our events over the last few months.
- Now that we are back to in-person events, we are recording the majority of them which has made it that much easier to media to cover events.
- Most recently, our programs with Federal Reserve Bank CEO Susan Collins and Nikki Haley received great local media coverage.
- You can view all of this coverage on our website.

Op-Eds

- To complement our advocacy on the R&D tax issue I mentioned earlier, we wrote an op-ed highlighting the need to reverse this change in the tax code, and recognizing Senator Hassan and Rep. Larson for their leadership. The piece was published in five different regional publications this spring.
- We are now working with NEBHE on a joint op-ed highlighting some of the findings of the New England Commission on the Future of Prison Education, on which I served.

Inside the Corner Office

- You may recall that earlier this year, we relaunched Inside the Corner Office as a YouTube series and podcast, allowing our audience to watch OR listen at their convenience.
- We release a new episode on the first of each month. Recent guest include:
 - Rob McCarron of AICUM
 - Jeffrey Thielman of the International Institute of New England
 - Iva Morse of Millipore Sigma

- Upcoming guests include Brooks Tingle, the new CEO of John Hancock, and Melissa Smith, the CEO of WEX.
- We've had so much interest in the program that we have a waiting list of members who would like their CEO to be a guest.
- The series is available not just to our members, but to anyone who is interested, on YouTube, Spotify, and iTunes.

Social Media & Video

- We continue to see increased engagement across all of our social media platforms, as well as consisted growth in followers.
- We have seen a lot of activity around some of our larger events, with members posting from the event, and we also have been encouraging our members to share their photos after each event - all of which helps promote the Council to a broader audience.
- We also continue to provide video recordings after each event which allows more members to access the speakers we host, and we are able to share clips on our social media.
- I encourage you all to follow us if you are not already—it's a great way to stay informed about everything we are working on.

Adjournment

There being no further business, and upon motion duly made, seconded and decided by unanimous vote, the committee members agreed to adjourn the meeting at approximately 1:45 p.m.

CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY

The undersigned, James T. Brett, certifies that he is the duly appointed and qualified Secretary of The New England Council, Inc., a Massachusetts corporation and that the foregoing is a true and correct record of the minutes of a meeting of the Executive Committee thereof, convened and held in accordance with state law and the Bylaws of the Corporation on the 18th day of September, 2023, and that any resolutions described herein were duly adopted and remain in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have affixed my name as Secretary of the Corporation to these minutes on the ____ day of _____, 2023.

James T. Brett
Corporate Secretary