

THE NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes September 11, 2024

The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of The New England Council, Inc. (the “Council” or the “Corporation”) held a meeting on September 11, 2024, at the virtually via Zoom, for the purpose of discussing Council operations for 2024 and for the transaction of any other business that may properly come before the meeting. The meeting began at 9:02 a.m. and ended at approximately 10:32 a.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,

James Brett, Pamela Everhart, John Hailer, Patricia Jacobs, Dennis Kearney, Dennis Leonard, Paul Mattera, Kenneth Quigley, Jr., Thomas Rath, 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 March 7, 2024, 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. As noted above, due to the lack of quorum at the in-person meeting, a resolution was circulated and voted upon electronically. With the number of electronic votes constituting a quorum 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. Rebecca Chasen, Deloitte
2. Elizabeth Fox, UnitedHealth Group
3. Adam Gluck, Sanofi US
4. Amy Iseppi, Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston
5. Karen Madden, Merck US Life Sciences
6. Chris McDonald, Comcast Cable
7. Viji Rangaswami, Liberty Mutual Insurance
8. Stephen Toffolon, March USA
9. Chayla White, RSM

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.

II. Financial Update

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

III. Council 100th Anniversary

Secretary James Brett provided the committee with an update of preliminary plans the Council's 100th Anniversary in 2025. Specifically, he outlined plans to hold a cocktail reception in each New England state over the course of the year, as well as a special anniversary event in Washington, DC. He also discussed plans to establish a fellowship program whereby the Council would provide funding for stipends for selected non-profit organizations in each state to hire summer interns. Finally, Secretary Brett updated the committee on plans for the Council's Centennial Celebration on October 20, 2025.

IV. Membership Update

President Brett provided the following membership update:

- Membership growth and retention continues to be strong despite the ongoing economic challenges
- We have secured **42** new members, representing **\$191,250** in new dues revenue.
- We have an additional **10** new members committed, representing **\$52,500** in new dues revenue.
- That brings our total to **\$243,750**.
- Our budgeted new membership revenue goal for 2024 is **\$281,000**, and so we are well on our way to meeting that goal with still almost four months remaining in the year.
- As always, we continue to pursue a number of promising prospects, and resignations continue to be very low.

V. Policy & Program Update

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

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

- On April 5, the Council hosted a Regional Energy Forum featuring keynote remarks from ISO-New England CEO Gordon van Welie. The program also featured a panel discussion with Council members in the energy sector who discussed their own efforts to ensure reliable and affordable energy for the region, while also working toward ambitious climate goals. The event was attended by some 150 people and was sponsored by National Grid.
- The committee is now actively planning an event for later this fall focused on PFAS chemicals, including an overview of PFAS, where it's located, and ongoing efforts by the business community to address testing and remediation. We also hope to incorporate the role of government agencies as well as regulations, and review what businesses in the region need to prepare for both new consumer expectations and government regulations. Senator Ed Markey has been invited to deliver keynote remarks.

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

- The Committee continues to support the Improving Disclosure for Investors Act of 2024, which was passed by the House of Representatives earlier this year and is currently before the Senate Banking Committee. This legislation would direct the SEC to transition the default method for receiving investor documents and disclosures from paper to digital—commonly referred to as

eDelivery.

- The Council recently sent a letter of support for the legislation to the New England Senate delegation.
- And next week, a group of members will participate in a series of meetings with Senate offices to advocate for the bill's passage and highlight the positive impact on industry and investors alike.

HEALTHCARE COMMITTEE

- In April, the Committee hosted an installment of New England Innovates series, this time focused on innovation in the treatment of rare diseases. The event featured keynote remarks by Congressman Jake Auchincloss, and was followed by a panel discussion of New England Council experts.
- In May, the Committee sent a letter to the New England Congressional Delegation expressing support for the ORPHAN Cures Act, which would address a provision in the Inflation Reduction Act that de-incentivizes rare disease R&D. Building upon this advocacy, as we speak, our staff and a group of life sciences members are on the Hill for a series of meetings with House offices to advocate for the ORHPAN Cures Act.
- On September 5, over 30 Healthcare Committee members gathered for an in-person meeting with U.S. Representative Lori Trahan to discuss current health policy priorities within the House Energy & Commerce committee.
- Finally, as flexibilities for telehealth services are due to expire at the end of the year, the committee is working on preparing a letter to the delegation urging them to support making these flexibilities permanent to improve access to care for patients.

HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- The Committee continues to closely monitor the U.S. Department of Education's implementation of a new FAFSA form, which has created a variety of challenges for students and institutions alike. Most recently, the committee is preparing a letter to the delegation expressing concerns about the recent announcement by the Department of Education that the FAFSA release would be delayed from October 1 to December 1 for most schools, and detailing the negative impact this delay will have on students and institutions alike.
- On October 11, the Committee will host a breakfast with former MA Governor and now NCAA President Charlie Baker in Boston. The program will focus on the NCAA's work on NIL issues.

TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION WORKING GROUP

- The Council released an updated version of our AI legislation tracker in June. The new version includes all bills surrounding AI legislation from the past year, including policies concerning deepfakes, AI's role in cybersecurity, preventing scams, regulatory frameworks, and much more. Since the first version of this report was released in late 2023, 48 new bills have been added.
- On October 31, the Council will host the next installment of our popular "New England Innovates" series, this time focused on innovation in the field of robotics. Representative Jim McGovern, co-chair of the Congressional Robotics Caucus, will deliver keynote remarks. Following the keynote, Tom Ryden of MassRobotics will moderate a panel of Council

members to discuss challenges and opportunities for continued innovation in the robotics sector and highlight how different industries are leveraging this new technology.

TRADE WORKING GROUP

- On June 20, the Council's Trade Working Group hosted a briefing with the Senate Finance Committee's Chief International Trade Counsel, who provide additional insight on what the U.S. Senate was working on related to trade matters and what members could expect the rest of the year to occur on trade.
- In August, Chris Melly, VP of Government Affairs at AIG, accepted the Council's offer to serve as the new Chair of the Trade Working Group. Chris has an extensive trade background, including senior roles at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative and the U.S. International Trade Commission.
- The Trade Working Group will meet October 1 to discuss any possible trade items that may come up in Congress before the end of the calendar year, or items that the Biden White House may pursue prior to a change in Administrations. Sen. Maggie Hassan's Legislative Director has been invited to address the group given the Senator's role on the Senate Finance Committee.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

- On November 13, the Committee will convene a forum in Boston as part of the New England Innovates series. This particular event will focus on the increased use of AI in various modes of transportation.
 - The program will be hosted by ML Strategies at their Boston office, and Luisa Paiewonsky (Pie – won – ski), Director of Infrastructure Systems and Technology at the U.S. Department of Transportation's Volpe Center, will deliver keynote remarks.
 - Following the keynote, a panel of Council transportation members will discuss how they are leveraging AI technologies.

V. Events Update

Council President Brett provided the following update.

Recent Events

- To date in 2024, the Council hosted over 30 in person events throughout New England and in Washington, DC.
- Most recently, here in New England, we have hosted Capitol Hill Report programs with Reps. Annie Kuster and Lori Trahan.
- In August, we also hosted a special event with retiring New Hampshire State Senator Lou D'Allesandro.
- In DC, we have hosted Capital Conversations programs with Congressman Jim McGovern, and a special joint program with Representatives Gabe Amo and Ayanna Pressley.
- Just yesterday in DC, we hosted the latest installment of our popular Coffee with the Chief series with Senator Ed Markey's Chief of Staff, Giselle Barry.

- And you'll recall that earlier this year the Council launched our new Rising Stars Network for young professionals.
 - After several successful Boston events, we launched the network in DC with kick-off reception for members and Congressional staff in June. I want to specifically thank Fidelity and PwC for co-sponsoring that event.
 - We also held the first Guiding Stars mentorship roundtable with Ann Jablon in July.

Upcoming Events

- We have a very busy calendar for the fall.
- Here in New England, we are looking forward to programs in the coming weeks with Representatives Jake Auchincloss, Stephen Lynch, Jared Golden, Chellie Pingree, and Becca Balint.
- In DC, we are looking forward to a Capital Conversations breakfast next week with Rep. Jim Himes.
- As I mentioned earlier, we also have two New England Innovates programs planned for the fall –
 - A robotics focused program on October 31
 - And a program focused on AI in Transportation on November 13
- Our Rising Stars Network also have a busy fall lineup:
 - Our young professionals will have the opportunity to meet with Rep. Jake Auchincloss, himself a young professional, following the Capitol Hill Report program next week.
 - Later in the month, we'll have a Guiding Stars public speaking workshop with Jean Card, and next month, a mentorship roundtable with Kristen Garvey of Waters.
 - And in DC, Northeastern University VP of Federal Relations Jack Cline will lead a Guiding Stars Roundtable on October 8.

2024 Annual Celebration

- Our 2024 Annual Celebration is now less than two weeks away and we are looking forward to an incredible evening.
- As you know, the event will take place on the evening of Monday, September 23, 2024, once again at the Omni Boston Hotel at the Seaport.
- Katherine Craven of Babson College and Cain Hayes of Point32Health are reprising their roles as dinner co-chairs after a very successful year in 2023.
- We are looking forward to celebrating five incredible honorees:

- The Burton Family – Ron Burton Training Village
 - Home Base and its Executive Director, Gen. Jack Hammond
 - Rep. Annie Kuster
 - Bob Rivers, Executive Chairman of Eastern Bank
 - Melissa Smith, CEO of WEX
- To date, we have secured \$2.112 million in sponsorships from 188 businesses and organizations, and Larry is still chasing a handful of additional sponsors, so we expect that final number could be a bit higher!

2025 Washington Leaders' Conference

- And believe it or not, we are already planning for our 2025 Washington Leaders Conference.
- The dates are set for May 14 and 15, 2025.
- As in years past, our board and sponsors will be invited to join us for the President's Dinner the evening before the conference kicks off. We'll be at a beautiful new venue next year, the Decatur House, which is part of the White House Historical Association.
- We'll return to the Willard for our Welcome Luncheon on May 14, although as our numbers have grown, we have graduated to a bigger ballroom – a good problem to have!
- And we've confirmed Charlie Palmer's for our Congressional breakfast on May 15.

VI. Communications Update

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

Media Coverage & Op-Eds

- We continued to receive great media coverage of our events over the last few months.
- In particular, our May events with Senators Healey and Sununu both received great coverage in local outlets.
- In the spring, we also had an op-ed calling on Congress to renew funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program, which provides broadband subsidies to income-eligible households. That piece ran in the Boston, Worcester and Hartford Business Journals, the Providence Business News, and the New Hampshire Business Review.
- And we are now working on an op-ed to complement our planned advocacy for extending telehealth flexibilities that we'll be submitting to publications in the coming weeks.

Inside the Corner Office

- As you know, at the beginning of last 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 guests include:
 - Stop & Shop President Gordon Reid
 - Ascentria Care Alliance CEO Angela Bovill
 - Novocure Executive Chairman Bill Doyle
- Upcoming guests include:
 - Lisa Wieland, New England President of National Grid
 - Jean Yang, CEO of Vinfen
 - Steve DiSalvo, President of Endicott College
- We've had so much interest in the program that we actually have a waiting list of members who would like their CEO to be a guest—a good problem to have!
- The series is available not just to our members, but to anyone who is interested, on YouTube, Spotify, and iTunes. I hope you'll check it out, if you haven't already!

Social Media

- As I mention at each meeting, our social media reach only continues to grow, and we continue to see increased engagement and new followers across all channels.
- One new feature we've used to build excitement for our Annual Celebration is a series of "Meet the New Englander of the Year" videos, featuring a brief interview with each of the honorees. These were released on social media over the summer and we saw great engagement.
 - We also released a short promotional video for the event itself just a few weeks ago.
 - And we've been proactively engaging the communications staff for each of our honorees, all of whom have helped amplify these videos and other posts about the event.
- We've also made a concerted effort to encourage our members to share their photos from our events on their own social media, which has been very successful, and again, only further increases the Council's reach.

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 10:32 a.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 11th day of September, 2024, 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 _____, 2024.

James T. Brett
Corporate Secretary