



NEW HAMPSHIRE – IRELAND TRADE COUNCIL

Department of Business and Economic Affairs
100 North Main Street, Suite 100
Concord, NH 03301

Approved Meeting Minutes

Department of Business and Economic Affairs
Kinsman Conference Room
Friday, June 20, 2025
2 PM

State Senators

Hon. Regina
Birdsell
Hon. Sharon
Carson

State Representatives

Hon. Dennis Malloy
Hon. Sherman
Packard

Secretary of State

Hon. Steve
Shurtleff

Dept. of Business and Economic Affairs

Taylor Caswell
Jeanie Forrester

Business and Industry Association of New Hampshire

Mike Skelton

University System of New Hampshire

Michele Dillon

Public Members

The meeting was called to order at 1:45 p.m. by Chair Sharon Carson.

Present: Chair Sen. Carson, Sen. Birdsell, Rep. Malloy, Michele Dillion, Hon. Jeb Bradley, Darragh Madden, Commissioner Caswell, Jeanie Forrester.

Sen. Carson introduced newest member of the Council, former Sen. Jeb Bradley who authored the legislation to create the NH-Ireland Trade Council.

Sen. Carson asked if everyone had a chance to review the March 21 minutes. Darragh Madden made a motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Michele Dillon, the motion passed unanimously.

Sen. Carson invited Ms. Dillon to give her presentation on the educational collaboration between Ireland and NH (**see attached PowerPoint**).

During the presentation, a variety of themes were discussed including:

- Should consider engaging the British Consul General (Northern Ireland).
- Discussion of child care availability, there is a child care allowance which is not means tested and family gets a stipend every month. However birthrates are declining with fewer women of child bearing age and those that are having children are having less children and at a later age in life. PreK and afterschool infrastructure strong.

Michael Barrett
*Granite State
District
Export Council*

Hon. Jeb Bradley

Andrea
Hechavarria
*NH Life Sciences
Association*

Darragh Madden
Irish Electric

- Cost of higher education in Ireland is more affordable (\$2k/annual w/government support).
- Discussion on on-line learning opportunities in Ireland...they are not as prevalent as in the U.S.
- Commissioner Caswell commented on meetings last September w/Trinity College, and working to develop a longer term establishment of relationship with some additional connections between UNH, Trinity, and the life sciences.
- Staff level to staff level interactions seem to be more productive.
- Discussion about what the Trade Council is trying to accomplish; how we make connections and have a coordinated approach and be more aggressive; OIC is constantly dealing with smaller businesses and we need to go deeper on this.
- Sen. Carson commented that we need to focus on trade schools; supporting/encouraging trade fairs to show there are other avenues for a career besides college.
- Commissioner Caswell commented on successful trade event in Washington and the Bio conference in Boston, where Ireland had a presence...the conference always generates leads.
- Minister Peter Burke - Michele Dillon's brother has a connection and when Senators visit Ireland we should consider arranging a meeting w/the Minister; reaching out to the Consul General before the trip, and arranging some business visits.

There was no other business to come before the Council.

Next meeting of the Council will be on September 19th at 2 p.m. at BEA offices in Concord.

A motion by Sen. Birdsell, seconded by Darragh Madden at 2 p.m.to adjourn.