

Connecticut-Ireland Trade Commission

Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2025

10:00 a.m. in Room 1D of the LOB

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday May 8, 2025, by Emmett Riley and Loretto Leary.

The following committee members were present: Chris Anischovich, Alex Dalum, Chris Dodd, Marty Dunleavy, Kevin Kelly, Christine Kinealy, Paddi LeShane, Loretto Leary (Co-Chair), Mariah Morardi, Colin O'Neill, Alex Peterson, Thomas Sheridan, and Emmett Riley (Co-Chair)

The following committee members were absent:

Introduction by Loretto Leary, Co-Chair, appointed by Senator Bob Duff in Norwalk. She is from County Galway in Ireland and is in support of bilateral trade between Connecticut and Ireland.

Introduction by Paddi LeShane, appointed by Governor Lamont.

Introduction by Alex Dalum, appointed by Speaker Ritter.

Introduction by Alex Peterson, who is the Director of Government Affairs for the Connecticut Airport Authority. Peterson was appointed by Senator Duff and is responsible for the Aer Lingus route which will maximize trade between Connecticut and Ireland.

Introduction by Mariah Morardi, who was appointed by Majority Leader Jason Rojas.

Introduction, Colin O'Neill who is the chairman of the Irish Native Connecticut Organization.

Introduction, Chris Anischovich who represents the 35th District of Clinton, Killingworth, and Westbrook. Anischovich also serves as a ranking member on the Commerce Committee.

Introduction by Marty Dunleavy, who was appointed by Governor Lamont and is presently the amendments clerk of the state senate.

Introduction by Chris Dodd, who was appointed by Governor Lamont and is retired from the United States Senate.

Introduction by Christine Kinealy, who was appointed by Governor Ned Lamont teaches at Quinnipiac University and holds a PhD in Irish History.

Introduction by Tony Sheridan, President of the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut.

Introduction by Kevin Kelly, who was appointed by Senate Leader Steven Harding. Kelly was the Co-Chair with Senator Bob Duff on the American State Legislator Irish Caucus.

Emmett Riley calls to discuss the draft of mission statement and they key objectives of the commission.

- Marty Dunleavy proposes to insert the word tourism into the current mission statement which should be included to foster tourism.
- Alex Peterson concurs.

- Kevin Kelly proposes to add a section with the law and the legal system as both the United States and Ireland share similar legal structure.

Introduction by Tom O’Dea, who represents the 125th District of Connecticut.

Emmett Riley calls Christine Kinealy to further discuss her proposed changes in the mission statement.

- Christine Kinealy asks should the Island of Ireland or the Republic of Ireland.
- Colin O’Neill asks to have the statute, Public Act 2460 from the 2024 Legislative Session which can be used to clarify the verbiage in regard to the Republic of Ireland.
- Paddi Leshane asked if Harford’s sister city relationship with New Ross should be included in the mission statement.

Emmett Riley proposes for the committee to meet every second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m.

- Chriss Dodd seconds the proposal of 10:00 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month.

Emmett Riley adjourned meeting.

Ava Del Vescovo

Connecticut-Ireland Trade Commission Administrative Intern