

Connecticut-Ireland Trade Commission

Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2025

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday January 13, 2026, by Emmett Riley and Loretto Leary.

The following committee members were present: Emmett Riley, Edmond Cullinan, Moriah Moriarity, Colin O'Neill, Alex Peterson, Loretto Leary, John Frey, Tom O'Dea, Sen. Hartley, Rep. Meskers, Chris Dodd, Kevin Ryan, Marty Dunleavy, Christine Kinealy, Thomas Sheridan, Paddi LeShane

Absent were: Rep. Aniskovich, Gregory Butler, Alex Dalhem, Kevin Kelleher, Sen. Kelly, Sen. Martin

I. CONVENE MEETING

Emmett Riley and Loretto Leary made opening remarks.

II. REMARKS BY THE CHAIRS

There were no opening remarks by the chair

III. DISCUSSION ABOUT SUBCOMMITTEE PURPOSE

Emmett Riley proposes Item No. 3, the discussion of subcommittees which will all have a chair, whom will be voted on by a survey. Each member must fill out the survey noting which committee they would like to be a part of, as well as a proposed chair. Subcommittees should include five to six people.

Emmett Riley proposes that the subcommittee regarding tourism should also include arts and culture. Also, Emmett Riley proposes the following subcommittee for education.

- Christine Kinealy volunteers to be the head of the education committee.

Emmett Riley proposes a heritage subcommittee.

- Loretto Leary proposes that heritage could be a part of arts and culture and would like to be on that committee.
- Emmett Riley proposes to combine heritage, arts, culture, and tourism.

Emmett Riley proposes a United States- Ireland trade committee.

- Collin O'Neill volunteers to chair the United States- Ireland trade subcommittee.
- Representative Meskers is willing to be a member of the United States- Ireland trade subcommittee.

Emmett Riley asks if any other subcommittees should be included.

- Representative Meskers adds that employment should be included in one of the subcommittees, whether that is in trade or education.

- Paddi LeShane discusses gathering organizations and stakeholders to build the foundation for each subcommittee.
- Representative Meskers ask for a liaison from the committee, so that function can be reported to the general committee. Then build a database for the commission.
- Representative Meskers and Paddi LeShane ask to confer with the New York commission to ask for advice on getting businesses, as well as the Irish Chamber of Commerce.
- Tony Sherdian asks to be on the trade subcommittee.

Emmett Riley makes a motion to accept those committees, chairs, and members to be appointed and Representative Meskers seconds the motion.

IV. OPEN DISCUSSION

Emmett Riley proposes Item No.4 the discussion of topics that a member would like to come up with or discuss with the commission.

Representative Meskers asks to reach out to Henry Martin to gather information on the Ireland General Summit.

Collin O'Neill wants to highlight the commissions efforts in early March and take advantage of St. Patrick's Day.

Representative Meskers note that in self-promotion, that it should be in some type of release as it needs to catch people's eyes. It should not be an e-blast and should go out to each of the caucuses.

Representative Meskers requests that for each meeting a reminder of who is speaking, and topics that are discussed are emailed administratively at least 10 days in advance.

Loretto Leary asks to have Jared Angley the new ambassador, and Roisin Leonard the new deputy as speakers from Enterprise Ireland.

Senator Dodd asks for the ambassador who is in Washington to come and present at a meeting.

Representative Meskers and Senator Dodd asks for the former ambassador who is now with the Massachusetts Trade Commission to speak about her experience setting up a trade commission. Representative Meskers asks that admin will record the meeting with the former ambassador.

V. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

Emmett Riley announces the next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 14th at 10:00 a.m. at the Legislative Office Building.

VI. ADJOURN MEETING

Emmett Riley adjourned the meeting.

Ava Del Vescovo

Connecticut-Ireland Trade Commission Administrative Intern