

Connecticut-Ireland Trade Commission

Meeting Minutes

December 9, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday December 9, 2025, by Emmett Riley and Loretto Leary.

The following committee members were present: Chris Anischovich, Alex Dahlem, Chris Dodd, Marty Dunleavy, Sen. Kelly, Christine Kinealy, Paddi LeShane, Loretto Leary (Co-Chair), Stephen Meskers, Mariah Morarity, Collin O'Neill, Alex Peterson, Tony Sheridan, and Emmett Riley (Co-Chair)

The following committee members were absent: Kevin Ryan, Gregory Butler, John Frey, Edmond Cullinan, Tom O'Dea, Kevin Kelleher

**I. CONVENE MEETING**  
**II. REMARKS BY THE CHAIRS**

There were no remarks made by the chairs

**III. DISUCSSION OF BUISNESS SURVEY**

Emmett Riley presents Item No. 1 to discuss the business survey with two samples which require feedback from the committee members by January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

- a. Paddi LeShane asks to discuss whether the length is appropriate in the subcommittee's purview for arts and culture.
- b. Loretto Leary asks to add sport and to add a checkbox to the survey to expedite the process of completing the survey.
- c. Representative Meskers states that the commission is the first of its kind in the state and whether there are more additions that may be offered to the service of the trade commission. Agrees with Loretto Leary about the addition of a checked box survey, and a comment section in the bottom.
- d. Representative Meskers says he will meet with the Irish Consulate in New York and may have recommendations for the survey after the meeting.
- e. Loretto Leary asks to address Martin Lady Penburg tourism which was recommended by Senator Mark Daly.

**IV. WEBSITE CREATION**

Emmett Riley Presents Item No. 2 the creation of a website for the committee, and considerations of whether it will sit on the commerce site or have an independent site within the Connecticut General Assembly.

- a. No questions or comments were raised.

**V. DISCUSION OF GUEST SPEAKERS**

Emmett Riley asks to discuss, which is the discussion of guest speakers who can present relevant topics.

- a. Marty Dunleavy asks to add the Irishman Governorship between the charity to support state raised money for schools.
- b. Emmett Riley states that they are finalizing a deadline for speakers on the survey on January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026. The Irish Connecticut Business council has already asked John Bordo and PJ to speak to the committee.

- c. Loretto Leary discusses that subcommittees will compile their own lists of businesses in their counties that are connected in Ireland.
- d. Marty Dunleavy asks to discuss the inclusiveness of the survey to add distinctions between private businesses, educators, and schools.
- e. Paddi LeShane states that there are limitations to the survey and how many responses that are expected. She and the coordinator note that the survey would not be a statewide survey but will prompt the beginning of a directory.
- f. Marty Dunleavy suggests hiring an intern through the legislative internship program to work on the website and survey responses.
- g. Emmett Riley agrees that the committee needs a legislator intern for the upcoming session and potentially getting a student from Ireland who would be interested in the committee's work.
- h. Joan Hartley agrees that an intern would be a helpful addition and advises that the administrator reaches out to Trinity College.

#### **VI. OPEN HOUSE DAY**

Emmett Riley moves to Item No. 5, the event discussion which is launching the final website in June of 2026 on Open House Day.

- a. Loretto Leary agrees that it would be an appropriate day but consider whether there would be an opening ceremony to the public.
- b. Emmett Riley asks where the ceremony should take place.
- c. Marty Dunleavy asks to do the ceremony at the capital, or the alternative being the old state house due to their professionalism behind the activity. Also asks for a cultural component with music, food, and other businesses. PJ would be able to provide business and promotional items.

#### **VII. POSTAL ADDRESS**

Emmett Riley moves to Item No. 6 to discuss new businesses and suggestions for the commission and that postal addresses will be required for membership and sent to the administrator.

#### **VIII. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

#### **IX. ADJOURN MEETING**

Emmett Riley adjourned the meeting.

Ava Del Vescovo

Connecticut-Ireland Trade Commission Intern