

Connecticut-Ireland Trade Commission

Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2026

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday January 13<sup>th</sup>, by Emmett Riley.

The following committee members were present:

The following committee members were absent:

**I. CONVENE MEETING**

Co-Chair Emmett Riley called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on January 13, 2026.

**II. REMARKS BY CHAIRS**

Emmett Riley proposes that this meeting is tasked with advancing bilateral trade, investment, and mutual policy issues in promoting business and academic exchanges.

**III. IRISH BUSINESS SURVEY**

Emmett Riley asks to move to the revision and consideration of Irish Business Survey.

- No members opposed the survey.
- Motion to accept survey document by Co-Chair Riley.
- Proposition of the creation of an electronic survey by Paddi LeShane.
- Recommendation to add Sport to the mission statement by Christine Kinealy.

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**IV. OUTREACH AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

Emmett Riley discusses the next agenda item being outreach and implementation of the strategy of the survey and mission statement.

- Discussion about inviting speakers to the February meeting. Chris Conway (Head of the Chamber of Commerce in West Hartford).
  - A member from the American Irish Partnership to speak about educational funds.
  - Getting someone from New Jersey or Western Virginia to speak about the website and how those commissions became situated in beginning a trade commission.
  - Recommendation of Dennis Brownley, founder of the African American Irish Diaspora Network, by Christine Kinealy who will provide contact information to the administrator.
  - O'Connell Douglas Foundation which aims to protect community and civil rights work, by Marty Dunleavy who will provide contact information to the administrator and Co-Chairs.
  - PJ who has been doing commission work before the creation of the commission, by Alex Peterson
  - John, who works with Advanced CT from the state who fosters ties with foreign nations, by Alex Peterson
- Build an inventory of Irish American Businesses for the Chamber of Commerce.

- Requests for the Aer Lingus Database access and meeting with a representative from the company as well.
- Fairfield County Galic community to send a list of their current businesses as well.

#### **V. DISCUSSION**

Administrator construction of a website with legislative help and email Senator Bob Duff's assistant about the future of the website.

- Potential to launch the website on Connecticut Open House Day.

Discussion the distribution of the official email addresses for members of the commission.

- Discuss with Legislative Management concerning the creation of a website and email addresses.
- Emails are only supplied to employees, and there is a distinction between employees and appointees with regard to the legalities behind government email addresses.

Co-chair discussion of Irish State Legislator Office email about a Zoom meeting.

#### **VI. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING**

Administrator discusses that the hearing room will not be available for the march meeting in Room 1C on Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

#### **VII. ADJOURN MEETING**

Co-Chair Emmett Riley adjourned the meeting.

Ava Del Vescovo

Connecticut-Ireland Trade Commission Intern