



# NEW HAMPSHIRE – IRELAND TRADE COUNCIL

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

## Attendance:

### 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

Michael Barrett  
James Cox  
Andrea Hechavarria  
Darragh Madden

### Guests

David Scanlan,  
Secretary of State  
Adam Boltik, BEA  
Chase Hagaman, BEA

## Meeting Minutes

Department of Business and Economic Affairs  
Kinsman Conference Room  
Wednesday, October 23, 2024  
1:00 PM

Meeting called to order at 1:00 PM by Commissioner Taylor Caswell

Introduction of Council Members and guests

Senator Birdsell provided a readout on a trip to Ireland in August 2024.

- Delegation included local government officials from several states
- Trip included visits to Dublin, Ireland, and Belfast, Northern Ireland.
- Identified important U.S. – Ireland ties in investment (Ireland is a significant investor in the U.S.) and education
- Meetings included the Irish Government (Department of Foreign Affairs, the Dail), U.S. Government (U.S. Ambassador to Ireland Claire Cronin), and businesses (American Chamber of Commerce in Ireland, Google)

Commissioner Caswell provided a readout on a trip to Ireland by Governor Sununu and a small delegation in September 2024

- Delegation included leadership from the Department of Business and Economic Affairs and the Governor’s office
- Identified specific partners and follow-up opportunities for the Council to build economic and educational ties and relationships
- Meetings included the Irish Government (Department of Foreign Affairs, the Dail, Enterprise Ireland), U.S. Government (U.S. Ambassador to Ireland Claire Cronin and Embassy staff), businesses (American Chamber of Commerce in Ireland, Keogh’s Crisps), and potential partners (The Mill Enterprise Hub, AMBER Research Centre at Trinity College)

Council members discussed potential areas of work, including:

- Identifying opportunities to engage Irish students in NH businesses through internship programs (such as with ARMI) and potentially exploring license reciprocity
- Strengthening travel links between Ireland and NH such as through Manchester – Boston Regional Airport

- Boost the recognition of New Hampshire in Ireland and engaging more with visiting trade delegations and officials, such as inviting official visitors to New Hampshire when they might be visiting Boston (such as over St. Patrick's Day).

Senator Sharon Carson was elected Chair of the New Hampshire – Ireland Trade Council

Council members discussed next steps, including:

- Meeting on a monthly basis (except for December) to continue to identify opportunities in education, tourism, and business partnership development
- Identifying specific focus areas, including in key sectors of life sciences, aerospace, and advanced manufacturing where there are some synergies
- Reaching out to invite New Hampshire's Federal delegation to meetings as well as representatives from Ireland in Boston (including the Consul General and Enterprise Ireland)
- Putting together a website, either with the Secretary of State's office of the Department of Business and Economic Affairs, for the Council to post agendas and minutes as well as to highlight history between New Hampshire and Ireland.

Meeting adjourned without objection at 1:41 PM. Next meeting date to be set by Chair Carson.

*Minutes approved 11/21/2024*