

# THE NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL

## Executive Committee Meeting Minutes November 12, 2024

The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of The New England Council, Inc. (the “Council” or the “Corporation”) held a meeting on November 12, 2024, at the Union Club in Boston, MA, for the purpose of discussing Council operations for 2024 and for the transaction of any other business that may properly come before the meeting. The meeting began at 12:05 p.m. and ended at approximately 1:54 p.m.

The following committee members, all of whom are Directors of the Corporation, were present at the meeting which was conducted in person with a call-in option,

James Brett, John Hailer, Patricia Jacobs, Dennis Kearney, Kenneth Quigley, Jr., John Stadtler

The meeting was called in accordance with the Bylaws of the Council. Notice was mailed to the Directors via electronic mail in accordance with these Bylaws. James Brett presided and acted as Secretary. However, pursuant to the Bylaws of the Council, this attendance did not constitute a quorum. However, the meeting was called to order by the Secretary, who shared updates with the committee members in attendance.

Following the meeting, all pertinent meeting materials and updates were circulated to the committee electronically, and an electronic vote was taken on:

1. Approval of the Minutes of the September 11, 2024 Meeting of the Executive Committee
2. Resolution Nominating New Directors
3. Resolution Regarding Profit Sharing
4. Resolution Regarding Bonuses

The results of the electronic voting were as follows:

Do you approve the minutes of the September 2024 meeting of the Executive Committee?		Do you approve the nomination the proposed slate of new directors?		Do you approve the resolution regarding profit sharing?		Do you approve the resolution regarding bonuses?		Name:
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes		becca gould
Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes		Pamela D Everhart
Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes		John Hailer
Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes		Patricia Jacobs
Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes		James Brett
Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes		Ken Quigley
Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes		John Stadtler
Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes		Joseph G Murphy
Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes		Dennis Kearney
Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes		Dennis Leonard
Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes		Thomas D.Rath
Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes		joseph nolan

## I. General Business

### A. Approval of Minutes

As noted above, the draft minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on September 11, 2024, were circulated electronically to the committee members following the in-person meeting, and with all committee members voting in the affirmative, the minutes were approved as presented.

### B. Nominating New Board Members

At the meeting the nomination of certain individuals to serve on the Council's Board of Directors was considered. After further discussion, it was decided that it has become necessary, for the benefit of the Corporation, to so nominate these individuals. As noted above, due to the lack of quorum at the in-person meeting, a resolution was circulated and voted upon electronically. With all Committee members voting in the affirmative, the Executive Committee adopted the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the bylaws of the Council were amended to increase the number of Directors that may be elected from sixty (60) to one hundred (100) Directors;

**WHEREAS**, the Executive Committee, in its capacity as Nominating Committee, has determined that it is in the best interests of the Council to nominate for election to the Board a Council member;

**WHEREAS**, a Council member has indicated a willingness to serve on the Council's Board;

**WHEREAS**, the Executive Committee has reviewed the member's qualifications to so serve;

**WHEREAS**, the Executive Committee has determined that the member meets the qualifications for Directors set forth in Section 2 of Article III of the Council's bylaws, and would make valuable contributions to the Board and to the governance of the Council; and

**WHEREAS**, such vacancies on the Board resulting from its enlargement may be filled by the Board as provided in Section 3 of Article III of the Council's bylaws, as amended, with each such Director holding office until a successor is elected and qualified at the next meeting of the members at which Directors are elected, it is therefor

**RESOLVED**, that the following Council member is nominated for the Board's approval to serve as Directors of the Council:

1. Gary Gilheeny, Organogenesis
2. Chris Philbin, Mass General Brigham
3. Lesli Suggs, Home for Little Wanderers

with such members holding office until a successor is elected and qualified at the next meeting of the members at which Directors are elected; and it is

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that the officers of the Corporation are hereby authorized to perform any such acts, including execution of any and all documents and certificates, as such officers shall deem necessary or advisable, to carry out the purposes and intent of this Resolution. The Executive Committee will report this action to the full Board of Directors at its next scheduled meeting.

C. Resolution Regarding Profit Sharing

President Brett reviewed a resolution related to profit sharing with the committee. As noted above, due to the lack of quorum at the in-person meeting, a resolution was circulated and voted upon electronically. With all Committee members voting in the affirmative, the Executive Committee adopted the resolution.

D. Resolution Regarding Bonuses

President Brett reviewed a resolution related to staff bonuses with the committee. As noted above, due to the lack of quorum at the in-person meeting, a resolution was circulated and voted upon electronically. With all Committee members voting in the affirmative, the Executive Committee adopted the resolution.

## II. Financial Update

President Brett provided an updated financial summary and an investment summary, as attached to these minutes.

### **III. Council 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Secretary James Brett provided the committee with an update of preliminary plans the Council's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2025. Specifically, he outlined plans to hold a cocktail reception in each New England state over the course of the year, as well as a special anniversary event in Washington, DC. He also discussed plans to establish a fellowship program whereby the Council would provide funding to selected non-profit organizations in each state to support the hiring of summer interns. Finally, Secretary Brett updated the committee on plans for the Council's Centennial Celebration on October 20, 2025.

### **IV. Membership Update**

President Brett provided the following membership update:

- Membership growth and retention continues to be strong despite the ongoing economic challenges
- We have secured **46** new members, representing **\$221,250** in new dues revenue.
- We have an additional **13** new members committed, representing **\$54,500** in new dues revenue.
- That brings our total to **\$275,750**.
- Our budgeted new membership revenue goal for 2024 is **\$281,000**, and so we expect to meet that goal by year's end
- As always, we continue to pursue a number of promising prospects, and resignations continue to be very low.

### **V. Policy & Program Update**

President Brett began with two broader updates on the Council's policy work:

- First, similar to what we did following the 2022 election, each of our committees will be hosting a post-election policy outlook virtual program over the next several months. We'll be tapping into expertise among our members to present these sessions for each committee. These were very popular and well received two years ago, and we expect they will be again this time around.
- And second, knowing that renewing the 2017 Trump Tax cuts will be a top agenda item early in the new year, we will again be soliciting feedback from our members about their tax priorities – and specifically provisions of the 2017 bill that they support renewing or would like to see changed. The goal is to identify some common priorities that we can then communicate to the delegation.

President Brett then summarized the ongoing work of the NEC's policy committees:

#### **ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

- The committee is in the process planning an event for early 2025 focused on PFAS chemicals, including an overview of PFAS, where it's located, and ongoing efforts by the business community to address testing and remediation. We also hope to incorporate the role of government agencies as well as regulations, and review what businesses in the region need to prepare for both new consumer expectations and government regulations. Senator Ed Markey

has been agreed to deliver keynote remarks and we will be planning the date around his availability once the Congressional Calendar for 2025 is released.

## **FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

- The Committee continues to support the Improving Disclosure for Investors Act of 2024, which was passed by the House of Representatives earlier this year but has not been taken up in the Senate. This legislation would direct the SEC to transition the default method for receiving investor documents and disclosures from paper to digital—commonly referred to as eDelivery.
  - Most recently, in September, we organized a Hill Day where a group of members spent a day meeting with Senate offices to advocate for the bill.
  - We are hopeful that it will be incorporated into a year-end spending bill.

## **HEALTHCARE COMMITTEE**

- The primary area of focus for the healthcare committee at the moment is on telehealth flexibilities for Medicare that are due to expire at the end of the year. We've heard from a wide array of members that they are very concerned about these flexibilities expiring, so we are finalizing a letter to the delegation urging them to support not just extending the flexibilities, but making them permanent. Our letter highlights, in particular, the benefits of telehealth in promoting health equity, and in improving access to behavioral health services.

## **HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

- Last month, the Committee hosted an very successful and well attended breakfast with former MA Governor and now NCAA President Charlie Baker in Boston. Governor Baker updated members on the NCAA's work related to NIL and pay to play issues.

## **HOUSING WORKING GROUP**

- The Housing Working Group is actually the first to hold its Post-Election Policy Outlook program. Next week, the Working Group will hear from David Gasson, the Executive Director of the Housing Advisory Group and co-founder of MG Housing Strategies. David will share his insights with the group on what to expect on federal housing policy under the new Administration and from the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress.

## **TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION WORKING GROUP**

- On October 31, the working group presented a very well attended and successful New England Innovates program here in Boston focused on innovation in the Robotics sector.
  - Congressman Jim McGovern, co-chair of the Congressional Robotics Caucus, delivered keynote remarks.
  - Following the keynote, a panel of Council members highlighted their own work in the robotics field, and discussed challenges and opportunities for continued innovation.

- We even had a visit from Spot, the robot dog developed by Boston Dynamics!
- WPI and New Balance generously co-sponsored the event.

## **TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

- Tomorrow, the Committee will host another event as part of the New England Innovates series. This particular event will focus on the increased use of AI in various modes of transportation.
  - The program will be hosted by ML Strategies at their Boston office, and Luisa Paiewonsky, Director of Infrastructure Systems and Technology at the U.S. Department of Transportation's Volpe Center, will deliver keynote remarks.
  - Following the keynote, a panel of Council transportation members will discuss how they are leveraging AI technologies.

## **V. Events Update**

Council President Brett provided the following update.

### Recent Events

- To date in 2024, the Council hosted over 50 in person events throughout New England and in Washington, DC.
- Most recently, here in New England, we have hosted Capitol Hill Report programs with Reps. Stephen Lynch, Chellie Pingree, Becca Balint, Seth Magaziner, and Susan Collins.
- In addition to some of the special programs led by our policy committees that I already mentioned earlier, we also hosted a breakfast featuring the former U.S. Ambassador to Russia John Sullivan.
- And in DC, we hosted a Capital Conversations program with Rep. Jim Himes, and a Coffee with the Chief with Sen. Markey's Chief of Staff Giselle Barry.

### Rising Stars

- Our new Rising Stars Network for young professionals continues to be very popular.
  - As you know, a key part of Rising Stars are what we call "Guiding Stars" mentorship roundtables, where we tap into some of the experience among our more established members to help guide our younger professionals.
  - Here in Boston, we held a public speaking workshop with speech coach Jeanne Card in September, and today, one of our board members, Kristen Garvey of Waters, is hosting a roundtable at Waters office in Cambridge.

- In DC, our most recent Guiding Star was Jack Cline, VP of Federal Affairs for Northeastern University.
- In several weeks, a group of our Rising Stars in the Boston area will be volunteering at the Home for Little Wanderers, helping to sort toys that have been donated for the holidays.
  - To support that effort, we invite you all to bring a toy or donation to the board meeting in a few weeks that our Rising Stars will deliver when they volunteer.
- Finally, in January, the Rising Stars Network will be hosting a networking reception at Boston Beer near Faneuil Hall. American Tower and Waters have kindly agreed to co-sponsor.
- We are looking for additional sponsors for this program so that we can continue to grow and expand, so please let me know if you are interested in learning more.

#### Upcoming Events

- We have a few more events planned before the end of the year.
- As I mentioned earlier, tomorrow we have a New England Innovates program focused on the use of AI in the transportation sector.
- On Friday, we have a special post-election analysis lunch program with Charlie Cook.
- We'll have a similar post-election analysis program in DC on December 11 featuring Mark Preston from CNN.
- And on December 14, we will host Congressman John Larson at a Capitol Hill Report breakfast in Hartford.

#### 2024 Annual Celebration

- I'm pleased to report that our 2024 Annual Celebration was an incredible success.
- Over 1700 guests attended the event on the evening of Monday, September 23, 2024, once again at the Omni Boston Hotel at the Seaport.
- Katherine Craven of Babson College is reprised her role as dinner co-chairs after a very successful year in 2023.
- We celebrated five incredible honorees:
  - The Burton Family – Ron Burton Training Village
  - Home Base and its Executive Director, Gen. Jack Hammond
  - Rep. Annie Kuster
  - Bob Rivers, Executive Chairman of Eastern Bank

- Melissa Smith, CEO of WEX
- The final sponsorship total was \$2,161,500 million from 194 businesses and organizations.
- Our budgeted goal was \$1.7 million, so we are thrilled to have exceeded that goal by such a large margin.

#### 2025 Washington Leaders' Conference

- And believe it or not, we are already planning for our 2025 Washington Leaders Conference.
- The dates are set for May 14 and 15, 2025.
- As in years past, our board and sponsors will be invited to join us for the President's Dinner the evening before the conference kicks off. We'll be at a beautiful new venue next year, the Decatur House, which is part of the White House Historical Association.
- We'll return to the Willard for our Welcome Luncheon on May 14, although as our numbers have grown, we have graduated to a bigger ballroom – a good problem to have!
- And we've confirmed Charlie Palmer's for our Congressional breakfast on May 15.

#### **VI. Communications Update**

President Brett provided the following update regarding the Council's communications efforts:

##### Media Coverage

- We continued to receive great media coverage of our events over the last few months.
- In particular, our recent program with Charlie Baker received significant local media coverage.
- I also did an interview just a few weeks ago on the New England Business Report on WRKO where I talked about some of the Council's top priorities going into the lame duck session.

##### Op-Eds

- We have a couple of op-eds in the works at the moment.
- The first outlines three top priorities for the lame duck session – namely, extending telehealth flexibilities, funding the Affordable Connectivity Program, and passing eDelivery legislation. It has been submitted to a number of publications in the region and we have already heard back from the Hartford Business Journal, the Providence Business News, and the Worcester Business Journal that they intend to publish it in the next several weeks.
- We also partnered with Fidelity on an op-ed specifically on the eDelivery legislation that is a priority for many of our Financial Services members. That has been submitted to the Union Leader, as we are hoping to win support for the bill from Senators Shaheen and Hassan. We are awaiting confirmation that they will publish the piece.

### Inside the Corner Office

- As you know, at the beginning of last year, we relaunched Inside the Corner Office as a YouTube series and podcast, allowing our audience to watch OR listen at their convenience.
- We release a new episode on the first of each month. Recent guests include:
  - Ascentria Care Alliance CEO Angela Bovill
  - Novocure Executive Chairman Bill Doyle
  - Jean Yang, CEO of Vinfen
- Upcoming guests include:
  - Lisa Wieland, New England President of National Grid
  - Steve DiSalvo, President of Endicott College
  - Mark Peters, CEO of the MITRE Corporation
- We've had so much interest in the program that we continue to have a waiting list of members who would like their CEO to be a guest—a good problem to have!
- The series is available not just to our members, but to anyone who is interested, on YouTube, Spotify, and iTunes. I hope you'll check it out, if you haven't already!

### Social Media

- As I mention at each meeting, our social media reach only continues to grow, and we continue to see increased engagement and new followers across all channels.
- We continue to add more video features across our social platforms, including:
  - Meet the New Englander of the Year videos with each of this year's honorees
  - A pre-event promotions video for the Annual Celebration
  - A post-event highlight video from the Annual Celebration
  - Video clips from events and from podcast episodes
- We've also made a concerted effort to encourage our members to share their photos from our events on their own social media, which has been very successful, and again, only further increases the Council's reach.
- If you are not yet following us, I encourage you to do so as it's a great way to keep up with everything going on at the Council.

### Adjournment

There being no further business, and upon motion duly made, seconded and decided by unanimous vote, the committee members agreed to adjourn the meeting at approximately 1:54 p.m.

**CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY**

The undersigned, James T. Brett, certifies that he is the duly appointed and qualified Secretary of The New England Council, Inc., a Massachusetts corporation and that the foregoing is a true and correct record of the minutes of a meeting of the Executive Committee thereof, convened and held in accordance with state law and the Bylaws of the Corporation on the 11th day of September, 2024, and that any resolutions described herein were duly adopted and remain in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have affixed my name as Secretary of the Corporation to these minutes on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
James T. Brett  
Corporate Secretary