

THE NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes September 10, 2025

The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of The New England Council, Inc. (the “Council” or the “Corporation”) held a meeting on September 10, 2025, at the Union Club in Boston, MA, for the purpose of discussing Council operations for 2025 and for the transaction of any other business that may properly come before the meeting. The meeting began at 12:03 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, Pamela Everhard, Becca Gould, Dennis Kearney, Dennis Leonard, Paul Mattera, Joseph Nolan, John Stadler

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.

The Secretary called the meeting to order.

I. General Business

A. Approval of Minutes

Upon motion duly made, seconded and decided by unanimous vote, the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on April 25, 2025, 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. Upon motion duly made, seconded and decided by unanimous vote, 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. Janene Asgeirsson, Analog Devices
2. Spencer Thibodeau, Unum

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. Staff Update

President Brett shared that Natasha Silva has been hired as the Council’s new Director of Federal Affairs. Natasha joined the Council staff in the Boston office in August, and is working primarily with the Financial Services Committee and Housing Working Group. Natasha previously worked for several members of the New England Congressional delegation on Capitol Hill, including as a Legislative Assistant to Rep. Stephen Lynch, and later as Legislative Director to Rep. Bill Keating. She also previously worked in federal advocacy at the National MS Society in DC.

II. Financial Update

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

CBIZ also presented an update on the Council’s 2024 Audit and Tax Return.

III. Membership Update

President Brett provided the following update on membership to date in 2025:

- We have secured **50** new members, representing \$225,350 in new dues revenue.

- We have an additional **11** new members committed, representing **\$33,250** in new dues revenue.
- That brings our total to **\$258,600**.
- Our budgeted goal for the year is \$257,250, so we are on track to surpass that goal by year's end.
- As always, have a very strong **prospect** list, which is included in your materials. If you have any connections to any of these companies and can help us to secure them as new members, we appreciate your assistance.
- And finally, **resignations** continue to be low, which says a lot about the value our members are getting from the Council.

IV. Council 100th Anniversary

Secretary James Brett provided the committee with an update of events and activities related to the the Council's 100th Anniversary in 2025.

Centennial Celebration

First, he provided an update on the Council's upcoming Centennial Celebration on October 20, 2025, at the Encore Boston Harbor. He reported that instead of the traditional New Englander of the Year Awards, the Council will present several Centennial Awards, as well as several Rising Star Awards to several of the region's up-and-coming leaders, including the three under-40 members of the Congressional delegation: Reps Gabe Amo, Jake Auchincloss and Maggie Goodlander.

In addition to the traditional sponsorship levels, President Brett explained the Centennial Celebration also features a \$100,000 sponsorship level, referred to as a Centennial Sponsor. Eastern Bank was the first to step up and commit to this incredibly generous level of sponsorship late last years. And several others have followed suit, including Hanscom Federal Credit Union and Vertex Pharmaceuticals.

He added that the Council has asked all members, and in particular our board of directors, to increase their contribution this year in recognition of our Centennial. As of Monday, September 8, we have secured a total \$2,379,500 in sponsorships from 150 organizations. Of these sponsors to date, 91 have increased their annual contribution. We are also seeing strong participation from our Board of Directors. To date, 76 of 97 Board Members are contribution, and 48 of those 76 have increased their contributions from last year. Board contributions to date total \$1,530,500, a \$516,500 increase in revenue from board contributions last year.

Centennial Toasts

Next, President Brett outlined a series of cocktail receptions in each New England state over the course of the year, called "Centennial Toasts, and noted that the five of the six events have already taken place and been very successful. The events have been very well attended, and have featured a member of the New England delegation as the guest speaker at each. The sixth and final Centennial Toast will take place later in September at Salve Regina University in Newport, RI, featuring Sen. Jack Reed.

Fellowship Program

President Brett also provided an update on the NEC Fellows Program, whereby the Council provided funding to selected non-profit organizations in each state to support the hiring of summer interns. He shared that the six host organizations selected by the Fellowship Advisory Committee had hired college students who worked as fellows over the summer. The six host organizations were:

- Connecticut: Connecticut Foodshare
- Maine: Dempsey Centers for Quality Cancer Care
- Massachusetts: St. Mary's Center for Women & Children
- New Hampshire: Camp Hale, operated by United South End Settlements
- Rhode Island: Pawtucket Central Falls Development
- Vermont: US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants

President Brett visited each organization and met with the fellows and their supervisors over the course of the summer, and was impressed by the organizations and the fellows alike. The first year of the program concluded with a luncheon at the Hampshire House in August where Board Members had the opportunity to meet the fellows and hear more about their experiences.

V. Events Update

President Brett provided the following update about NEC events:

Recent Events

- To date in 2025, the Council has hosted nearly 40 in person events throughout New England and in Washington, DC.
- Most recently, here in New England, we have hosted Politics & Eggs programs with Rep. Nancy Mace and Sen. Ruben Gallego.
- Also in August, we held our Maine Centennial Toast in Portland, featuring Senator Angus King.
- Last week, we hosted a special program with several former US Ambassadors, including Claire Cronin (Ireland), Vicki Kennedy (Austria), and John Sullivan (Russia).
- In DC, last week we hosted Representative Chris Pappas at a Capital Conversations Breakfast, and yesterday, we hosted Rep. Bill Keating.
- Also last week, we held the latest installment of our popular New England Innovates series, this time taking a look at the latest developments in the detection and remediation of PFAS chemicals. Congressman Jake Auchincloss was the featured guest, followed by a panel discussion.
- Our Rising Stars Network for young professionals is now in its second year and continues to grow and thrive.
 - The Guiding Stars mentorship roundtable series continue to be very popular in both Boston and DC.
 - And just a few weeks ago, several dozen young professionals volunteered with the Northeast Arc at a field day program on the Boston Common.

- This program is a great way for the Council to develop a strong network of up-and-coming leaders in the New England business community, and to bring new and diverse faces to our events.
- We are always looking for more sponsors for the series, so if you would be interested, please let me know.

Upcoming Events

- We have a busy lineup of events this fall.
- In the coming days weeks, we are looking forward to Capitol Hill Report programs with Rep. Stephen Lynch, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, Rep. Seth Magaziner, and Rep. Lori Trahan.
- In the coming weeks, we will hold a breakfast program in New Hampshire with Governor Kelly Ayotte, and a similar program in Connecticut with Governor Ned Lamont.
- In October, we are looking forward to a Regional Energy Forum featuring keynote remarks from ISO New England President Gordon van Welie. The program will also feature a panel discussion with several of our energy members, focused primarily on the important relationship between the US and Canada when it comes to energy issues. That program will take place at the New Hampshire Institute of Politics.
- And in November, we will hold another New England Innovates program, this time focused on the importance of early detection of diseases. Rep. Jim McGovern will give keynote remarks, and the program will also feature a panel discussion with several Council members.

2026 Washington Leaders Conference

- Believe it or not, we are also in the early stages of planning our 2026 Washington Leaders Conference.
- The conference dates are set for May 13 and 14, and we'll be sending out a Save the Date with hotel room block information in the coming weeks.
- We have already secured our venues for the main elements of the conference.
 - The President's Dinner will again be held at the Decatur House.
 - The Welcome Luncheon will again be held at the Willard.
 - And we will also return to the Hilton Capitol Hill for the Congressional Breakfast.
- Similar to years past, registration will open after the first of the year.

VI. Policy & Program Update

President Brett began with a broader update on the Council's advocacy efforts related to the budget reconciliation legislation that Congress passed in July. He explained that as Congress considered the One Big Beautiful Bill Act in June and July, the Council's policy staff collaborated on a cross-sector effort to identify and compile top priorities for inclusion in the final legislation, as well as key areas of concern.

As a result of extensive member outreach and collection of feedback, the policy team prepared a letter that was sent to each member of the region's Senate delegation that detailed the priorities and concerns across different industries.

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

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

- During the Washington Leaders' Conference, the committee met with FERC Commissioner Judy Chang, who happens to be a former top energy official here in Massachusetts.
- As I mentioned, last week, we held a very successful New England Innovates program looking at the issue of PFAS contamination and the work being done in the region to address these "forever chemicals." It was co-sponsored by Battelle and Waters Corporation, both of whom had speaking roles during the program. In addition to a fireside chat with Rep. Jake Auchincloss, the program also featured a panel discussion with several Council members with expertise in this area.
- On September 3, the Council hosted a webinar on the regional impact of the recent stop work order issued by the Trump Administration for the Revolution Wind project off the coast of Rhode Island and Connecticut. The program drew over 200 Council members and other interested businesses in the region. We are also considering further advocacy on this issue, working closely with Orsted and Eversource, the two members involved in the project.
- On October 28, the Council will host a Regional Energy Forum at the New Hampshire Institute of Politics, featuring keynote remarks from ISO-New England CEO Gordon van Welie. Following his remarks, we are organizing a panel of Council members in the energy sector to discuss some of the key challenges facing the region's energy sector, particularly in light of the ongoing trade dynamics with Canada.

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

- During the 2025 Washington Leaders' Conference, the Financial Services Committee held two meetings – one with Senate Banking Committee Ranking Member Elizabeth Warren's committee staff, and a second Chairman Tim Scott's committee staff. During both meetings, committee staff updated members on the Chairman's and Ranking Member's respective priorities and possible areas for bipartisan collaboration on the committee.
- The Financial Services Committee has been working over the past six months with PwC and a group of other committee members to update the Council's 2017 report on the economic impact of the financial services committee in New England. Members have had opportunities to contribute throughout the process, and the report draft is now final and in the process of being designed and branded. It will be released this fall, and a Congressional briefing on the report in DC is in the works.
- On Friday, the Committee will meet with Rep. Stephen Lynch following a larger Council breakfast program. During the meeting, the Council will provide the Congressman with a preview of the forthcoming report, and hear from him about key issues before the House Financial Services Committee, on which he serves as a senior member, this fall.

HEALTHCARE COMMITTEE

- During the 2025 Washington Leaders' Conference, the Healthcare Committee met with staff to New England members of the Senate HELP Committee, including Senators Hassan, King, and Welch. The staffers updated members on recent issues before the committee and the three Senators' top priorities during the current Congress.
- In July, the Healthcare Committee shared a letter of support for the Nancy Gardner Sewell Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage (Act. The bill seeks to allow Medicare to cover multi cancer early detection tests in a timely manner following FDA approval and evidence of clinical benefit. Currently, most vulnerable patients could face years-long waits to access the latest innovations in cancer detection.
- Building upon this advocacy, the Healthcare Committee is planning an event focused on early disease detection in an upcoming installment of the Council's New England Innovates series in November. The program will examine the challenges and opportunities surrounding early disease detection in the healthcare sector. Congressman Jim McGovern is confirmed to deliver keynote remarks and panel discussions will cover some of the new technologies available, as well as the impact of early detection on healthcare costs.

HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- During the Washington Leaders' Conference, the committee met with Sara Garcia, Senior Policy Advisor for the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions for Ranking Member Bernie Sanders. The staffers updated committee members on key issues before the committee and discussed the Senators' education related priorities during the 119th Congress.
- We also held a small group meeting with Patrick Fox, staff for Senate HELP Committee Chair Bill Cassidy. The Council was represented by 6 NEC members in this meeting from most NE states and it was a productive conversation about concerns from the Higher Education community and recommendations for the Senate version of the reconciliation package.
- On June 10, the Higher Education Committee hosted a briefing with a former Biden Administration official, Amanda Miller, who discussed funding freezes and caps and how to move forward with grant applications.
- On September 23rd the committee will hold its fall meeting, during which the committee's new co-chair, Jennifer Grodsky, Vice President for Federal Relations at Boston University will be introduced.

HOUSING WORKING GROUP

- The Committee hosted a Fall meeting on September 3, which began with a presentation by two Senate Banking Committee staff members on the ROAD to Housing Act, which the committee recently advanced. Following the presentation, two new working group co-chairs were introduced: David Gasson of the Housing Advisory Group, and Amy Iseppi of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston. The Working Group also discussed NEC advocacy in support of the ROAD to Housing Act, as well as other legislative priorities and programming ideas.

- Following the meeting, the Housing Working Group is now in the process of finalizing a letter of support for the bipartisan ROAD to Housing Act to be sent to the region's Senate delegation in the coming days.

TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION WORKING GROUP

- During the Washington Leaders' Conference, the working group met with staff to Rep. Seth Moulton to learn more about the Congressman's work on the China Select Committee.
- On June 26 the working group held a meeting with Dylan Irlbeck, Energy and Commerce staffer to Rep. Lori Trahan who updated members on current issues before the House Energy & Commerce Committee.
- On July 8, 2025, the Council sent a letter to the delegation urging them to support legislation reauthorizing the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and the Small Business Technology (STTR) programs before they are set to expire on September 30, 2025. In the letter, the Council specifically expressed its support the SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act of 2025 recently introduced by Senator Ed Markey, which would permanently reauthorize both programs.
- On September 18, the working group will host its fall general business meeting. At the start of the meeting we will be joined by MassTech Collaborative to brief the group on the Northeast Microelectronics Hub.

TRADE WORKING GROUP

- President Trump's tariffs and resulting trade war continue to be top of mind for our trade working group.
- During the Washington Leaders Conference in May, working group met with Virginia Lenahan, Chief International Trade Counsel for the Senate Finance Committee, who provided insight into the efforts being taken by the Finance Committee related to the Administration's tariff policy.
- On June 24, 2025, the Working Group held a meeting with Dan RuBoss of Senator Sheldon Whitehouse's staff. He provided an overview of the Trump Administration's trade and tariff policy and discussed the challenges Congress faces in curbing those policies. He also spoke about the reconciliation process that was underway at that time and how efforts to repeal the de minimis trade exemption had been put off for at least a short while.
- On September 15, 2025, the Trade Working Group will host virtual event for all Council member where the Wilmer-Hale experts who provided a briefing on President Trump's tariffs in February will provide an update on where things stand and where tariff policy is projected to go in the months ahead.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

- During the Washington Leaders' Conference, the committee held two in-person meetings. The first was with the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Staff, and the second was with several senior officials at the U.S. Department of Transportation.

- On June 26, 2025, the committee met with Nate Birnbaum, Legislative Assistant to Senator Ed Markey. He discussed a variety of policy issues including surface transportation reauthorization prospects, aviation and air traffic control issues, rail projects, water resources and climate resilience, and infrastructure funding.
- On September 18, 2025, the committee will meet with Christopher Senn, Assistant Administrator for Government and Industry Affairs at the Federal Aviation Administration.

VI. Communications Update

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

Media Coverage

- We’ve received some great media coverage of our events in recent months, including events over the summer with Rep. Seth Moulton, Gov. Maura Healey, and Senator Ed Markey.
- Our recent Politics & Eggs program with Arizona Senator Ruben Gallego also received extensive regional media coverage, and we expect we’ll continue to see strong coverage of Politics & Eggs events as more potential candidates visit New Hampshire in the coming months.
- You can always see all of our media coverage on our website.

Op-Eds

- We have submitted an op-ed on the impact of the Revolution Wind stop work order to the Boston Globe. The piece is co-authored by the leaders of several other business associations in the region.
- We are also working on an op-ed to complement our advocacy on the ROAD to Housing Bill that will be submitted to business publications throughout the region.

Inside the Corner Office

- Our podcast, Inside the Corner Office, continues to be very popular and a great tool to highlight our members.
- As you know, we release a new episode on the first of each month. Recent guests include:
 - Norfolk Sheriff Patrick McDermott
 - Massport CEO Rich Davey
 - BiState Primary Care Association CEO Tess Keuning (Kin-ing)
- Upcoming guests include:
 - UNH President Elizabeth Chilton
 - Eastern Bank Executive Chairman Bob Rivers
 - Samaritans CEO Kathy Marchi
 - BU President Melissa Gilliam
- 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 & Video

- 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.
- It's been a great way to highlight a lot of the activities around our Centennial, including introducing our NEC Fellows, promoting the Centennial Celebration, and highlighting some of the Council's history.
- 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 10th day of September, 2025, 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