

THE NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes November 13, 2025

The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of The New England Council, Inc. (the “Council” or the “Corporation”) held a meeting on November 13, 2025, virtually via Microsoft Teams, 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 10:02 a.m. and ended at approximately 10:58 a.m.

The following committee members, all of whom are Directors of the Corporation, were present at the meeting which was conducted virtually:

James Brett, Becca Gould, John Hailer, Patricia Jacobs, Dennis Kearney, Dennis Leonard, Paul Mattera, Joseph Murphy, Kenneth Quigley, and 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 September 10, 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. Paul Donovan, Kearney, Donovan & McGee
2. Sarah Stanton, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts

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.

II. Financial Update

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

Upon motion duly made, seconded and decided by unanimous vote, the Committee approved a resolution approving a proposal from investment advisor Neuberger Berman to provide a long-term funding mechanism for the New England Council Fellows Program.

III. Membership Update

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

- We have secured **67** new members, representing \$282,500 in new dues revenue.
- We have an additional **12** new members committed, representing **\$43,500** in new dues revenue.
- That brings our total to **\$326,000**
- Our budgeted goal for the year is \$257,250, so we are pleased to have surpassed the goal with 7 weeks remaining in the year.

- 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 recap of the Council's Centennial Celebration, which was held on October 20, 2025, at the Encore Boston Harbor. He reported that several awards were presented, including a Centennial Award to Sandy Edgerly of the 'Quin House, a Legacy Award to historian Doris Kearns Goodwin, a Founders Award presented to Maine Gov. Janet Mills, and Rising Star Awards to Reps. Gabe Amo, Jake Auchincloss, and Maggie Goodlander. Maria Stephanos wo WCVB served as the evenings emcee, and the event was attended by over 1800 guests.

In addition to the traditional sponsorship levels, President Brett explained the Centennial Celebration also featured 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, and several others followed suit, including Bank of America, Hanscom Federal Credit Union and Vertex Pharmaceuticals.

He reported that in total, the Centennial Celebration brought in a total of \$2,764,500 million in sponsorships from 184 businesses and organizations throughout the region. Many sponsors increased their donation, and board participation was strong.

Centennial Toasts

Next, President Brett recapped a series of cocktail receptions in each New England state over the course of the year, called "Centennial Toasts, and noted that all 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 took place 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.

President Brett also discussed plans to expand the program in 2026 to fund a total of 12 fellowships, two in each New England state, and shared that the Advisory Committee had already met to begin planning for the second year, and that the Council would be opening the 2026 host application process in the coming days.

V. Events Update

President Brett provided the following update about NEC events:

Recent Events

- To date in 2025, the Council has hosted nearly 50 in person events throughout New England and in Washington, DC.
- Most recently, here in New England, we have hosted Capitol Hill Reports with Rep. Stephen Lynch and Seth Magaziner, as well as Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse.
- Continuing our breakfast series with New England Governors, this fall we hosted programs with Gov. Kelly Ayotte in New Hampshire, and Gov. Ned Lamont in Connecticut.
- In September, we held our 6th and final Centennial Toast at Salve Regina University in Rhode Island, featuring Sen. Jack Reed.
- And in DC this fall, we have hosted Capital Conversations breakfasts with Reps. Chris Pappas and Bill Keating, as well as a Coffee with the Chief with Jennifer Chandler, Chief of Staff to Rep. Jim McGovern.
- We’ve also continued our popular Guiding Stars mentorship roundtable series for young professionals, with a program hosted by URI on multigenerational workplace collaboration, and a discussion with former Rep. Frank Guinta, now a Senior VP at ML Strategies, in DC.

Upcoming Events

- Due to the federal government shutdown and resulting uncertainty about Congressional schedules, it has been very challenging to confirm additional events this fall.
- And we are also hosting a Capitol Hill Briefing in DC on December 3 highlighting a new report on the economic impact of the financial services industry in New England.
- We are hopeful that once the shutdown is over, we’ll be able to add a few more events before the end of the year.

2026 Washington Leaders Conference

- 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 sent out a Save the Date with hotel room block information in late October.
- 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 Board of Directors Meeting will be hosted at K&L Gates.
 - 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 then summarized the ongoing work of the NEC’s policy committees:

HEALTHCARE COMMITTEE

- The Council is in the process of finalizing a letter to the New England delegation expressing our support for the Ensuring Patient Access to Critical Breakthrough Products Act, which would speed up access to FDA approved medical devices for Medicare patients. The bill has broad support from our members, and was recently passed by the House Ways & Means Committee. We plan to send our letter to the delegation as soon as the shutdown is over.

HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- The Higher Education Committee recently welcomed a new co-chair. Jennifer Grodsky, Vice President for Federal Relations at Boston University, joins AICURI’s Dan Egan as co-chair, replacing Dr. Robert Johnson, who retired earlier this year.
- The Committee spearheaded two letter to the delegation about education related appropriations matters this fall. The first focused on federal research funding, and the second on funding for Pell Grants, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, and the Federal Work-Study program.
- The Council also submitted comments a proposed DHS rule that would impact the length of stay requirements for foreign students, stressing the importance of international students for institutions in our region.

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 Council sent a letter of support for the ROAD to Housing Act to the region’s Senate delegation, and we were pleased to see the bill passed by the Senate as part of the NDAA.

- The Working Group met again last week to discuss other housing legislation priorities as well as ideas for future programming.

TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION WORKING GROUP

- In July, 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 held its fall general business meeting, which featured a presentation by the MasTech Collaborative about the Northeast Microelectronics Hub.
- On October 16 the working group hosted a meeting featuring a presentation by Alan McQuinn, professionals staff member on the House Science Space and Technology Committee, who updated members on the Committee’s work on Artificial Intelligence and Robotics.
- On December 3, the Tech & Innovation Working Group will partner with the Energy & Environment Committee to host the EPA Region 1 Administrator who will discuss administration priorities with a focus on AI and Robotics

TRADE WORKING GROUP

- President Trump’s tariffs and resulting trade war continue to be top of mind for our trade working group.
- On September 15, 2025, the Trade Working Group hosted a virtual event open to all Council members where the Wilmer Hale experts who provided a briefing on President Trump’s tariffs in February will provided an update on where things stand and where tariff policy is projected to go in the months ahead.
- On October 30, 2025, the Trade Working Group had a meeting featuring Haley Adams from Senator Elizabeth Warren’s staff. She provided an overview of the Trump Administration’s trade and tariff policy and discussed the efforts underway just that week in the Senate to reverse the Administration’s emergency declaration for tariffs on Brazil, Canada, and the global community.
- On October 31, the Council submitted a comment letter to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative as part of that agency’s mandated review of the US-Canada-Mexico Agreement (USMCA) on the 6th anniversary of the agreement’s implementation. In the letter, the Council expressed its ongoing support for the USMCA and highlighted the importance of free trade between the US and these key trade partners

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

- As the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee prepares to consider surface transportation legislation in the coming months, the committee is in the process of preparing a set of regional priorities to share with policymakers as any reauthorization package advances.

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. In particular, our breakfast with Gov. Kelly Ayotte was covered by several outlets in New Hampshire.
- I was honored to be profiled by WCVB Anchor Maria Stephanos, who interviewed me about my work on disabilities advocacy. Maria of course was the emcee of our Centennial Celebration.
- And just last week, the Bay State Banner did a great piece on the Council's Centennial, including highlighting our fellowship program.
- You can always see all of our media coverage on our website.

Op-Eds

- Following the Revolution Wind stop work order back in September, we partnered with several other business organizations on an op-ed highlighting the regional impact of this order, which ran in several Connecticut publications.
- And to complement our advocacy in support of the ROAD to Housing Act, we penned an op-ed about the legislation that was published in a number of regional business publications, including the BBJ, Providence Business News, New Hampshire Business Review, Hartford Business Journal, and Portland Press Herald.

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:
 - Massport CEO Rich Davey
 - BiState Primary Care Association CEO Tess Keuning
 - UNH President Elizabeth Chilton
 - Eastern Bank Executive Chairman Bob Rivers
- Upcoming guests include:
 - 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.
- As you know, we also had number of video elements that were incorporated into the Centennial Celebration, that we have been posting to our social media in recent weeks.
- 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 10:58 a.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 13th day of November, 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 _____, 2026.

James T. Brett
Corporate Secretary