THE NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2026

The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of The New England Council, Inc. (the "Council" or the "Corporation") held a meeting on September 16, 2026, at the Union Club in Boston, MA, for the purpose of discussing Council operations for 2026 and for the transaction of any other business that may properly come before the meeting. The meeting began at 11:34 a.m., and ended at approximately 1:26 p.m.

The following committee members, all of whom are Directors of the Corporation, were present at the meeting either in person or via conference call:

James Brett, Becca Gould, John Hailer, Joseph Nolan, Kenneth Quigley, and 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.

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 February 21, 2026, were approved as presented.

B. Nominating New Directors

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. Matthew Beaton, Haughland Group
2. Bryan Grubbins, Bond Brothers
3. Jason Jakubowski, Connecticut Foodshare
4. Rob McCarron, Association of Independent Colleges & Universities in Massachusetts
5. Jack Murphy, Bank Newport
6. Heather Schuchardt, Ocean Spray

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.

III. Membership Update

President Brett provided the following update on membership to date in 2026:

- We have secured **47** new members, representing **$181,000** in new dues revenue.
- We have an additional **9** new members committed, representing $**30,000** in new dues revenue.
- That brings our total to $**211,000**
- The budgeted total for the year is **$257,250,** so we are optimistic we will reach that goal by year's end.
- And finally, **resignations** continue to be low, which says a lot about the value our members are getting from the Council.

IV. Events Update

President Brett provided the following update about NEC events:

Recent Events

- We continue to maintain a very busy event calendar. To date, we have held 35 Council-wide in-person events throughout the region and in Washington, DC.
- Most recently here in New England, we have hosted Capitol Hill Report programs with Senators Peter Welch, Maggie Hassan, and just on Monday, Sheldon Whitehouse.
- In recent months, we have also hosted Politics & Eggs programs with Senator John Kennedy, Political Journalist Jonathan Martin, and Republican Strategist Mike Murphy.
- In June, we also had a very well attended event featuring Deputy Secretary of Energy James Danly. The program highlighted the incredible regional collaboration to ensure energy reliability last winter, and also featured a panel discussion with several Council members engaged in those efforts.
- Also in June, we held a very well attended program with Rep. Stephen Lynch focused on housing challenges in the region.
- In Washington, DC, we have hosted Capital Conversations programs in recent months with Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, Rep. Seth Magaziner, and most recently, Rep. Jim McGovern.

Upcoming Events

- After a quiet August when many of our members were taking summer vacations, we have a busy fall planned.
- In the coming weeks, here in New England, we have Capitol Hill Report programs with Rep. Chellie Pingree, Rep. Maggie Goodlander, Rep. Jake Auchincloss, and Sen. Richard Blumenthal.
- On October 20, we'll be in New Hampshire for a Politics & Eggs program with Charlie Cook, who will share his insights leading into the upcoming midterm elections.
- We're also looking forward to a very timely breakfast program with Canada's Ambassador to the US, Mark Wiseman, on October 20.
- In DC, we have a Capital Conversations breakfast next week with Rep. Gabe Amo, and in October, we will host a Coffee with the Chief with Rep. Magaziner's chief of staff, Jess Vaughn.

2026 Annual Celebration

- And of course, the highlight of the fall will be our 2026 Annual Celebration, which will take place on the evening of October 29, 2026.
- We will return to the Encore Boston Harbor for a second year, after hearing so much great feedback on the venue last year.
- We are looking forward to honoring three New Englanders of the Year:
    - Senator Angus King of Maine
    - Pam Everhart of Fidelity Investments
    - Eliza Dushku, former actress who is now a prominent mental health advocate in the region
- We will also present Legacy Awards to two past New Englanders of the Year:
    - Senator Jeanne Shaheen, who is of course retiring at the end of her current term.
    - Academy Award-winning documentary filmmaker Ken Burns – however, we have learned in just the past few days that a conflict has come up for Ken and he won't be able to join in person, so we hope to show pre-taped acceptance remarks

- In terms of sponsorships, as of yesterday, we have secured $2,062,000 in sponsorship commitments from 163 companies and organizations.
- Our budgeted goal for the event is $2,161,500, so we are just under 100,000 shy of that goal, and with still about five weeks until the event, we are optimistic that we will reach it.
- As you all know, given Larry's health situation, it has been challenging to pursue sponsorships, but other members of the team have stepped up to assist with reaching out and following up with members.
- In addition, board member Bob Rivers very generously committed to matching Eastern Bank's 2025 contribution of $100,000 this year, and Bob is also assisting with sponsor outreach in his role as Event Chair.
- Many other board members have also stepped up to assist in reaching out to their own contacts to support our efforts, for which we are very grateful.

V. Policy & Program Update

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

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

- As I mentioned, back in June, we hosted an excellent program with the Deputy Energy Secretary highlighting regional collaboration to ensure energy reliability last winter.
- More recently, the committee has focused on possible permitting reform legislation, which could move later this year, or otherwise, will be a priority in the next Congress.
- A smaller working group within the Energy & Environment Committee has come together to develop a set of regional principles for permitting reform. After multiple meetings over the past several months, and several drafts, the principles are nearly finalized, and will be shared with the New England delegation in the coming days.
- We are also considering a Congressional staff briefing to discuss these priorities, either virtually in the near future, or in-person in DC in the new year, depending on how things play out.

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

- The Financial Services Committee has prioritized connecting with key policy staff to members of the New England delegation this year to share priorities and get insight on relevant committee activity. The committee has held three such virtual meetings to date this year:
    - February - Grace Ryan, financial services policy advisor to Rep. Stephen Lynch, a senior member of the House Financial Services Committee.
    - May – Erin Butler, financial services policy staffer for Rep. Jim Himes, also a member of the House Financial Services Committee.
    - Yesterday - Zachary Baum and Maxwell Cavas, staff to Sen. Jack Reed, a senior member of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee.
- On the advocacy front, in July, we sent a letter to the New England Congressional Delegation urging them to cosponsor and support the bipartisan Generating Retirement Ownership Through Long-Term Holding (GROWTH) Act, which would modernize outdated tax rules affecting millions of mutual fund investors and strengthen long-term savings opportunities for New England families.

HEALTHCARE COMMITTEE

- Early detection of disease continues to be a primary area of focus for the Healthcare Committee. Earlier in the year, the Council supported a multi-cancer early detection bill that passed as part of the FY26 appropriations bill, and we hosted an event highlighting innovation in the early detection of disease.
- Most recently, in August, we sent a letter of support to the New England delegation on the Alzheimer's Screening and Prevention (ASAP) Act, which would expand access to early Alzheimer's disease biomarker tests.
- Later this month, the committee will host a virtual meeting with Rep. Jake Auchincloss' healthcare staffer to discuss the Congressman's work on the Energy & Commerce Health Subcommittee, including his bipartisan SECURE 340B Act, which has widespread industry support.

HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- The Higher Ed Committee has focused significantly this year on regulatory advocacy as the Trump Administration has attempted to advance new regulations that would be detrimental to this sector.
- Earlier in the year, we submitted comments on a Department of Education proposal that would change the definition of "professional degree" as it relates to federal lending caps. The rule would have a devastating impact on several healthcare professions, including nursing and mental health. We were pleased that the final rule was changed to include many of the professional degrees that we were concerned about.
- And in July, we submitted comments on a proposed OMB rule that would give political appointees—rather than subject matter experts—more control of the awarding of federal grants.
- In June, the committee hosted a virtual meeting featuring a briefing from Sen. Jack Reed's education staffer, who discussed the Senator's work on the Senate HELP Committee, including the State Based Education Loan Awareness Act.

HOUSING WORKING GROUP

- As you know, the bipartisan comprehensive housing bill has been a top priority for the Council this year. We had advocated in support of the original Senate version co-sponsored by Sen. Warren, and were pleased that a revised compromise version of the bill, known as the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act, was finally passed into law in late June.
- Also in June, the Council hosted a housing forum featuring Rep. Stephen Lynch, a senior member of the House Financial Services Committee. In a fireside chat with Liberty Bay Credit Union CEO John Barron, the Congressman discussed New England's unique housing challenges, and the impact on workforce constraints.
- And this afternoon, the working group will host a briefing with Sen. Warren's Banking Committee staff who will brief members on the final housing bill and what was ultimately included.

TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION WORKING GROUP

- In recent months, the Tech & Innovation Working Group has focused on convening members for meetings and briefing with key Congressional staff, with a particular focus on AI and cybersecurity policy. Meetings have included:
    - Senator Markey's Commerce Committee staff in May
    - Rep. Buddy Carter's Energy & Commerce Committee staff, also in May
    - Rep. Lori Trahan's technology staffer who briefed members on the Congresswoman's FRONTIER Act, as well as a larger AI discussion draft
    - Sen. Mark Warner's staff to discuss his work on cyber policy

TRADE WORKING GROUP

- The Administration's tariff policies, as well as the USMCA review process, continue to be top priorities for the working group.
- As the July deadline on the USMCA review approached, we had an op-ed highlighting the importance of the agreement published several regional publications.
- The working group met with several senior staffers to Senate Finance Committee Chairman Mike Crapo during the Washington Leaders Conference, as well as Rep. Neal's House Ways & Means trade staffer, where much of the discussion focused on tariffs and USMCA.
- Yesterday, the working group hosted a briefing with the Economic Minister at the Embassy of Canada who discussed the impact of the latest round of tariffs on Canadian goods.
- And as I mentioned earlier, we'll be hosting the Canadian Ambassador in Boston next month, which will be very timely.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

- Surface transportation reauthorization remains front of mind for the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, as the current law– the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) – will expire in December. In June, the Council sent the New England delegation a letter supporting the House reauthorization bill, the BUILD America 250 Act.
- In July, the committee hosted a virtual meeting with Sen. Markey's transportation staffer to learn more about the Senate's approach to surface transportation reauthorization, as well as other issues including air traffic control modernization, and the Water Resources Development Act.

NEC FELLOWS PROGRAM

- I also wanted to update you on our New England Council Fellows Program, which has just concluded its second year. As you know, with the support of the Board, this year we were able to expand the program, doubling the number of fellows to 12 – two in each New England state.
- In the spring, our Fellowship Advisory Committee reviewed over 70 applications and selected the twelve host organizations, each of whom received $5,000 to support the hiring of a summer fellow.
- We kicked off the program with a virtual meet and greet in June, where many members of the board joined to meet the 12 fellows and their supervisors.
- Over the course of the summer, we also offered two virtual "lunch and learn" sessions for the Fellows.
    - The first focused on non-profit advocacy and government relations, featuring presentations from Graham Shalgian of Rasky Partners, and Maura Sullivan of the Arc of Massachusetts.

- And the second focused on non-profit communications, featuring Sandy Lish of the Castle Group and several members of her team.

- Also over the summer, I visited several of the fellows, and some of our board members also kindly volunteered to visit others, which I very much appreciated.
- We capped off the summer with a luncheon for the fellows and their supervisors at the Hampshire House in early August, where we heard from the fellows about their experiences this summer.
- In your materials, you'll find the reflection essays that each of the fellows submitted at the conclusion of their fellowship. I do hope you'll take the time to read them as they really reinforce the impact of this program on these young adults.
- We are now shifting gears and looking ahead to year 3, and will be convening the Fellowship Advisory Committee to begin planning in a few weeks.

Rising Stars Network

- Our Rising Stars Network for young professionals continues to be very active and has held several very well-attended events in recent months.
- Here in Boston, veteran political reporter Alison King was the featured guest at a Guiding Stars mentor roundtable in late May.
- In June, the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston hosted a very well attended networking seminar for our young professionals.
- And next month, St. Mary's Center President Alexis Steel will speak at another Guiding Stars roundtable.
- In DC, Elizabeth Sharp, head of Philips DC office, was the featured guest at a Guiding Stars session in June.
- Community service has also become a cornerstone of the Guiding Stars Network.
    - In May, a group of young professionals volunteered at the Boys and Girls Club of Boston 5K, and later this month, another group will volunteer at the Samaritans 5K.
    - In DC, a group of our Rising Starts welcomed veterans visiting memorials through the Honor Flight Program in June.
- We are always looking for new sponsors to support this popular initiative, which we view as an investment in our region's future, so if you are interested, please let me know.

VI. Communications Update

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

Media Coverage

- We continue to receive great media coverage of our various events around the region, all of which you can view on our website.
- Our event with Deputy Energy Secretary James Danly was covered in the Boston Globe, and in an energy trade publication called RTO Insider.
- The Boston Globe's New Hampshire Bureau did a great piece on the announcement of Sen. Shaheen and fellow Granite Stater Ken Burns as Legacy Award Honorees.
- And several of our recent Politics & Eggs programs, including with Republican Strategist Mike Murphy and Sen. John Kennedy, were covered by local outlets in New Hampshire.

Op-Eds

- We've also had several op-eds published in regional business publications in recent months.
- As I mentioned earlier, in June, we wrote a piece on the importance of the US Mexico Canada Agreement, or USMCA, as the deadline to renew the agreement approached. The piece ran in the Boston and Worcester Business Journals.
- And following the passage of the 21st Century Road to Housing Act, we wrote a piece outlining the impact on the region's housing challenges that was published in August in the Providence Business News and the New Hampshire Business Review.

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:
    - Regis College President Antoinette Hayes
    - Dan Cence, CEO of Issues Management Group
    - Matt Stone, CEO of Youth Villages
    - Teronda Ellis, CEO of Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation
- Upcoming guests include:
    - John Randall, CEO of Amego
    - Christiana Thornton, CEO of Granite Edvance
    - Andrea Kalyn (Kay – lin), President of the New England Conservatory
    - Canadian Consul General Bernadette Jordan
- We continue to have strong interest from members in participating and are always booked out 3-4 months in advance, often with a wait list of members who are interested in participating.
- 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.
- Social media continued to be a great tool for us to highlight our programming and advocacy, as well as the podcast and the fellowship program.
- This month, we are releasing a series of "Meet the Honoree" videos highlighting the honorees at our Annual Celebration, and we'll also be releasing a short promotional video for the event itself in a few 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 1:58 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 16th day of September, 2026, 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