

## Connecticut-Ireland Trade Commission

### Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2026

10:00 a.m. in Room 1C of the LOB

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday January 13<sup>th</sup>, by Emmett Riley.

The following committee members were present:

The following committee members were absent:

Co-Chair Emmett Riley called the meeting to order at x time on January 13, 2026. Today's meeting was tasked with advancing bilateral trade, investment, and mutual policy issues in promoting business and academic exchanges.

Emmett Riley asks to move to the revision and consideration of Irish Business Survey.

- No members opposed the survey.
- Motion to accept survey document by Co-Chair Riley.
- Proposition of the creation of an electronic survey by Paddi LeShane.

Emmett Riley moves to the next agenda item being the revision of the mission statement.

- Recommendation to add Sport to the mission statement by Christine Kinealy

Emmett Riley discusses the next agenda item being outreach and implementation of the strategy of the survey and mission statement.

- Discussion about inviting speakers to the February meeting.
  - Chris Conway (Head of the Chamber of Commerce in West Hartford).
  - A member from the American Irish Partnership to speak about educational funds.
  - Getting someone from New Jersey or Western Virginia to speak about the website and how those commissions became situated in beginning a trade commission.
  - Recommendation of Dennis Brownley, founder of the African American Irish Diaspora Network, by Christine Kinealy who will provide contact information to the administrator.
  - O'Connell Douglas Foundation which aims to protect community and civil rights work, by Marty Dunleavy who will provide contact information to the administrator and Co-Chairs.
  - PJ who has been doing commission work before the creation of the commission, by Alex Peterson
  - John, who works with Advanced CT from the state who fosters ties with foreign nations, by Alex Peterson
- Build an inventory of Irish American Businesses for the Chamber of Commerce.
  - Requests for the Aer Lingus Database access and meeting with a representative from the company as well.
  - Fairfield County Galic community to send a list of their current businesses as well.

The next item on the agenda discusses is the website update and launch event.

- Administrator construction of a website with legislative help.

- Email Senator Bob Duff's assistant about the future of the website.
- Potential to launch the website on Connecticut Open House Day.

The final item on the agenda is to discuss the distribution of the official email addresses for members of the commission.

- Discuss with Legislative Management concerning the creation of a website and email addresses.
- Emails are only supplied to employees, and there is a distinction between employees and appointees with regard to the legalities behind government email addresses.

Co-chair discussion of Irish State Legislator Office email about a Zoom meeting

Administrator discusses that the hearing room will not be available for the march meeting in Room 1C on that day at 10:00 a.m.

Co-Chair Emmett Riley adjourned the meeting.

Ava Del Vescovo

Connecticut-Ireland Trade Commission Intern