

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
NEW HAMPSHIRE - CANADIAN TRADE COUNCIL

Department of State
State House - Room 204
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301
Phone: 603-271-3242 Fax: 603-271-6316

New Hampshire Canadian Trade Council Regular Meeting
March 18, 2024
Meeting Minutes

Called to order by Vice Chair Sen Donna Soucy at 2:08 pm Chairperson Rep. Janet Wall took the gavel at 2:14 PM Statehouse Rm 103

In Attendance:

Secretary of State David M. Scanlan

Senators: Howard Pearl, Vice Chair Donna Soucy

Representatives: Chair Janet Wall, Representatives Benjamin Baroody, Tim McGough, Linda Massimilla, Arnold Davis, Brian Cole, Steve Shurtleff

Department of Business and Economic Affairs: Benoit LaMontagne

Office of the Governor: Harold Parker (Absent)

Private Sector:

Timothy T. Egan

Ericka Canales, Lancaster – Coos Economic Development

Laurence Gagnon, Quebec Economic Development – attended by phone

AGENDA

State House Room 103

March 18, 2024 2:00 pm

- 1.) Approve the meeting minutes of February 12, 2024. Attendance list updated
- 2.) Discussion: Sister Cities

Sec Scanlan reports on behalf of Sen D'Allessandro the sister city program may be gaining some traction. Sherbrooke has hired an individual to work on this project. A meeting is pending with Mayor Ruais and the Mayor of Sherbrooke.

- 3.) Discussion: Fall Event – discussion from Sec Scanlan in re follow up from Feb meeting. The meeting will be forthcoming.
- 4.) Benoit LaMontagne has report on Fall Event. Benoit reported the Mount Washington Hotel has told him that during off season, and before Thanksgiving the hotel would be willing to offer a lower rate.

Mount Washington Hotel agreed to host – 11/18-19, the week before Thanksgiving. Room rates about \$250. Ballroom cost \$1000. Committee of Reps Shurtleff, Massimilla, Davis, and Benoit LaMontagne.

Potential for Mt. Washington Cog Railroad. Northern Borders funding offers \$9000. Potentially other corporate sponsors.

Sec Scanlan commented the event should go forward despite the difficulty for anyone from the Sec of State Office to attend to to recount season during that time period.

Council approved dates 11/18-19 with one vote dissenting, Rep McGough citing the following objections:

- 1.) This Council was not represented by the SOS last year in Canada, and is supported by the Secretary and accommodations should be made for the Office to attend.
- 2.) Having the event during a General Election recount season when 30% of the legislature is expected to turnover is not prudent
- 3.) It is not prudent to have the event far from the major economic engines of the State – including hours from Manchester (105 miles), Concord (90 miles), Nashua (115 miles), or Portsmouth (110 miles). The event is not merely a tourist event, but is meant to drive economic collaboration within the entire state.
- 4.) Just prior to the US Thanksgiving Holiday event will also be a difficult time for some businesses

Evening Agenda Monday 11/18/24 and other activities in the area and funding for same. Real Gilbert suggested a singer for that evening entertainment.

- a. Tote Bags, Rep Massimilla suggests we use New Hampshire made tote bags, some question and to whether the actual tote badges are made in NH, or just screen printed in NH.

5.) Other Business. None

- 6.) Next Meeting Scheduled for 4/15/24 at 2pm
- 7.) Adjourn 2:42 pm