

NH Canadian Trade Council
May 22, 2023
Upham Walker House

Minutes

Chairman, Senator Lou D'Allesandro opened the meeting on time.

Members present: Sen. D'Allesandro, Rep. Wall, Rep. Merner, Sen. Soucy, Rep. Baroody, Rep. Massimilla, Rep. DiSilvestro, Rep. McGough, Rep. Davis, Rep. Eaton, Rep. Shurtleff, Benoit Lamontagne, Tim Egan, Harold Parker and David Scanlan.

Also Present were Canadian Consul General Roger Cuzner, Marie-Claude Francoeur, Quebec Delegate to New England, Lisa Carrier with the Canadian Consul General, Maggie Randall, Quebec Government Public Affairs Attache, John Tousignant, Franco American Center and Real Gilbert.

Northern Borders – A trip to the Northern Border is being planned for this fall, probably in October. There are approximately \$4,000 in funds left over from the last event in Manchester that could be used to fund this event.

Sister City Initiative – Benoit has set up a conference call for this Thursday to get this organized. Manchester is all set to participate and is waiting for word from Sherbrooke. Both cities are big in the bio-engineering fields. A suggestion was made to invite the Cardinal whose is affiliated with Bishop's University to a Sister City event. Rep. McGough talked about a new bio-engineering group that is investing heavily in Sherbrooke.

Council of State Governments – Eastern Regional Conference – The Speaker's office has notified some House members on the Canadian Trade Council that they will cover travel expenses up to \$1,200 if the CTC will cover the registration fees of \$400 each. 7 House members plan to attend. There was a brief discussion about the possibility of The Canadian Trade Council holding a reception with the Canadian Provinces at the annual meeting of CSG-ERC.

Other Business –

Berlin Mayor Paul Grenier is interested in having Berlin be designated as a sister city.

Francois Rubello is working on a project to run passenger train service from Montreal to Boston. A change in rail ownership has reignited this discussion. The Maine legislature is conducting a study that would involve sleeper cars and a route along the seacoast.

The Les Otten project for the Balsam's Resort appears to be moving forward and could be a stop on a Boston to Maine train route.

Tim Egan mentioned a couple of events coming up in association with the New England – Canada Business Council including a September 13 virtual presentation by the NH Department of Transportation and a November 1 expo on electric vehicles.

Sen. D'Allesandro noted that thanks to Dean Kamen's operation, Manchester is becoming a center for the creation of body part regeneration with a focus on veterans. There is a major expansion of labs and companies that are moving in.

The meeting adjourned to a reception in honor of Canadian Consul General Roger Cuzner who is retiring from his post. Governor Sununu and the New Hampshire Senate offered commendations for his contributions to the State of New Hampshire.

Minutes submitted by Rep. Tim McGough