

**Cape Light Compact JPE  
Governing Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, February 13, 2020**

The Cape Light Compact JPE Board of Directors met on Thursday, February 13, 2020 in the Martha's Vineyard Conference Room at the Cape Light Compact JPE Offices at 261 Whites Path, Yarmouth MA 02664 at 2:00 PM.

**Present Were:**

1. David Anthony, Secretary/Executive Committee, Barnstable
2. Peter Doyle, Alternate, Barnstable
3. Robert Schofield, Executive Committee, Bourne
4. Colin Odell, Brewster
5. Timothy Carroll, Chilmark – **By Phone**
6. Peter Cocolis, Executive Committee, Chatham
7. Erik Peckar, Dukes County – **By Phone**
8. Alan Strahler, Edgartown
9. Ronald Zweig, Chair/Executive Committee, Falmouth
10. Valerie Bell, Harwich
11. Richard Toole, Executive Committee, Oak Bluffs – **By Phone**
12. Martin Culik, Executive Committee, Orleans
13. Nathaniel Mayo, Provincetown
14. Leanne Drake, Sandwich
15. Bob Higgins-Steele, Truro – **By Phone**
16. Richard Elkin, Wellfleet
17. Sue Hruby, West Tisbury
18. Joyce Flynn, Vice Chair/Executive Committee, Yarmouth

**Absent Were:**

1. Michael Hebert, Aquinnah
2. Brad Crowell, Dennis
3. Fred Fenlon, Eastham
4. Wayne Taylor, Mashpee
5. Kirk Metell, Tisbury

**Members/Alternates:**

Physically present: 14

Present by phone: 4

**Legal Counsel:**

Jeffrey Bernstein, Esq., BCK Law, P.C.

**Staff Present:**

Austin Brandt, Senior Power Supply Planner

Dan Schell, Marketing and Communications Coordinator

Maggie Downey, Administrator

Melissa Allard, Senior Administrative Coordinator

Lindsay Henderson, Senior Analyst

**Public Present:**

Barry Margolin, Chair of 350 Cape Cod

Ronald Zweig called the meeting to order at 2:04 PM. Ronald Zweig recognized Timothy Carroll of Chilmark, Erik Peckar of Dukes County, Richard Toole of Oak Bluffs, and Bob Higgins-Steele of Truro who were remotely participating because physical attendance at the meeting would be unreasonably difficult.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Barry Margolin stated that 350.org is asking every municipality on Cape Cod at Town Meetings in Spring 2020 to declare a climate emergency and take steps to reach net zero emissions as soon as feasible. He stated that there will be a petition at each town meeting for people to sign and that the Board Members could help in spreading the word to their towns. Mr. Margolin distributed a draft of the Resolution to the Board for informational purposes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The Board considered the January 8, 2020 Open Session Meeting Minutes.

David Anthony stated that on the last line of page seven, an “r” needs to be added to the end of “sola” and add “Renewable Target” after “Massachusetts.” In the fourth line of the fourth paragraph on page eight, it should say “Habitat for Humanity.” In the first full paragraph on page nine, in the first line, “could get around” is to be changed to “had other options in” and in line three, “get around” is changed to “handle.”

*Colin Odell moved the Board to accept the minutes as amended and to release them as amended, seconded by Sue Hruby.*

David	Anthony	Barnstable	Yes
Robert	Schofield	Bourne	Yes
Colin	Odell	Brewster	Yes
Timothy	Carroll	Chilmark	Yes
Peter	Cocolis	Chatham	Yes
Erik	Peckar	Dukes County	Yes
Alan	Strahler	Edgartown	Yes
Ronald	Zweig	Falmouth	Yes
Valerie	Bell	Harwich	Yes
Richard	Toole	Oak Bluffs	Yes
Martin	Culik	Orleans	Yes
Nate	Mayo	Provincetown	Yes
Leanne	Drake	Sandwich	Yes
Bob	Higgins-Steele	Truro	Yes
Richard	Elkin	Wellfleet	Yes
Sue	Hruby	West Tisbury	Yes
Joyce	Flynn	Yarmouth	Yes

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:**

**1. Staff to Provide Brief Explanation of the SMART (Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target) Tariff**

Austin Brandt reviewed SMART Program Overview PowerPoint. Colin Odell asked if there are any energy efficiency surcharges included in the SMART incentive provided to participating customers. Austin Brandt answered no and noted that the “Who Pays” slide in his PowerPoint presentation reviews how SMART is funded. Richard Elkin stated that solar would come first and then power supply second. He asked how this would impact the Compact. Austin Brandt stated that it would only impact the Compact by reducing sales.

Valerie Bell asked if this program is replacing Solar Renewable Energy Credits (“SRECs”). Austin Brandt answered yes. Valerie Bell asked if someone installed solar now, whether it would be under SMART. Austin Brandt answered yes that it began in 2019, and all customers installing solar would participate in SMART and not the SREC program. Valerie Bell stated that she is still receiving SRECs for her solar system. Austin Brandt stated that if the customer’s project was installed under the SREC program, then they will continue to receive them.

Austin Brandt reviewed the Compensation Rates/Terms/Adders slide of the PowerPoint. Maggie Downey stated that Peter Cocolis brought to her attention that a solar project is being proposed in Chatham. She asked if they would get an adder if the project was on a brownfield. Austin Brandt stated yes, if located on a brownfield and if the customers are R2 they could also get an additional adder as well.

Eric Peckar asked where the net metering caps are at for the Southeastern Massachusetts area. Austin Brandt answered that he doesn’t know off the top of his head. He stated that there is a website maintained by the Commonwealth with that information. He also stated that small projects are not subject to net metering caps. Ron Zweig said thank you for the report. He then asked from the incentive standpoint the ranking of SRECs and SMART. Austin Brandt stated that SRECs 1 provides the highest incentive, followed by SRECs 2 and then SMART.

**2020 OPERATING AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY BUDGET REPORTS, PETER COCOLIS:**

Peter Cocolis stated that 5% of the Operating Budget was spent in January 2020. He stated there is no Energy Efficiency Budget report to share this month as the Compact spent less than \$20,000. Maggie Downey stated that invoices are not in or have not been processed yet for January.

**PRESENTATION ON PROPOSED CAPE & VINEYARD ELECTRIFICATION OFFERING (“CVEO”):**

Maggie Downey reviewed the Cape & Vineyard Electrification Offering (“CVEO”) PowerPoint. She stated that it was presented to the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council (“EEAC”) the previous day. She stated that the Compact met with stakeholders throughout 2019 and revised the proposal to address stakeholder concerns. The EEAC was supportive of the revised CVEO proposal. The Compact hopes to get an approval for CVEO in 2020 and possibly start implementing it in 2020 as well.

Austin Brandt continued the review of the PowerPoint starting on the Summary of Charges slide.

Valerie Bell asked whether through the Third-Party Ownership (“TPO”), the owner of the property would benefit from the reduced energy cost but wouldn’t receive the benefits from the rebate programs. Austin Brandt

stated that that was correct. He stated that the Attorney General’s Office (“AGO”) raised concerns about the maintenance of the systems. He stated that the TPO will be providing maintenance and will be signing a contract.

Colin Odell asked about the \$6.8 million for heat pumps which includes \$1.7 million incremental incentive over approved statewide offerings and whether that was taken out of what the Compact is already offering for heat pump measures. Austin Brandt stated that the budget is separate of what is being done outside of CVEO. Colin Odell asked what concerns have been raised by stakeholders. Austin Brandt answered that they are worried about bill impacts. Colin Odell stated that people should be lobbying for energy efficiency to be changed to carbon reduction. Maggie Downey stated that she is hopeful it is moving in that direction.

Sue Hruby asked who the EEAC is. Maggie Downey stated that they were established under the 2008 Green Communities Act. The EEAC is required to approve the proposed Energy Efficiency Plan before it moves to the DPU. She also stated that the Compact sends the EEAC quarterly reports as well.

Martin Culik asked what if the condition of the roof is not stable enough for solar. Maggie Downey stated there are funds for low income customers to help with repair. For moderate income customers it is a bit more challenging. Ron Zweig asked if the Compact had put together figures for return on equity to share with the public and get them interested in doing something like this on their own outside of CVEO. Maggie Downey stated that staff has not compiled this information yet. Austin Brandt stated that it is not cost effective for gas customers to switch to heat pumps. Richard Elkin stated that for there are proposals to have all new construction projects to not add any carbon systems as part of their project. Austin Brandt stated that if a specific measure is a code requirement, then the Compact cannot use energy efficiency funds to pay for the measure.

#### **PROPOSED 2020 MAIN STREETS OFFERING FOR SMALL BUSINESSES, LINDSAY HENDERSON:**

Lindsay Henderson reviewed the Main Streets Initiatives 2020 PowerPoint. She stated that the 2019 events in Oak Bluffs and Chatham were a success. However, there are ways in which she hopes to improve in 2020. In 2020 she is looking to hold two events in spring and two in the fall to capture as many customers as possible.

Joyce Flynn asked if the Compact was looking for interest in the program for next year. Lindsay Henderson answered yes, if the towns are interested to let her know.

#### **OVERVIEW OF 2020 CLC MARKETING VIDEOS AND 2018 ANNUAL REPORT, DAN SCHELL:**

Dan Schell stated that there are 2018 Annual Reports for Board Members to take if they would like to. The 2019 report will be issued once the 2019 audit is completed. Maggie Downey will be bringing the reports to the Board of Selectmen meetings.

Dan Schell stated that Cadmus created several videos. The goal of these videos is to do educate customers on programs that are particularly complex. There is a video on the Compact’s Local Green program as well as a video on why a family decided to have an energy assessment done at their house. Both were shown to the Board.

Maggie Downey stated that she was impressed with the work Dan Schell and Cadmus have done. Ron Zweig asked how much activity there is on YouTube. Dan Schell stated there is not a lot of activity on YouTube. However, there has been an increase in activity on all other social media and on the main website.

#### **OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED SENATE LEGISLATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, JEFF BERNSTEIN**

Jeff Bernstein reviewed the Summary of Massachusetts Climate Bills PowerPoint.

Maggie Downey stated that the Compact met with Senator Cyr and Representative Peake and reviewed existing legislation that originated last February as a result of a meeting she and David Meade-Fox had with Senator Cyr and Representative Peake. Senator Cyr proposed an amendment to the Senate Climate bill, which passed. The proposed amendment clarifies the existing authority of towns/cities (Compact) to propose an energy plan that is enhanced or more comprehensive than the state-wide plan under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 164, Section 134 with the Green Communities Act.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT, MAGGIE DOWNEY:**

##### **1. Update on DPU 19-136, 2020 Energy Efficiency Surcharge**

Maggie Downey stated that a technical session on shared costs is proposed for March 4<sup>th</sup>. When she has the official notice from the DPU, she’ll send the information to the Board if any would like to attend.

##### **2. Finalize list of questions for Eversource’s on their December presentation to the Board**

Maggie Downey stated that she is having difficulty putting together the questions the Board has for Eversource. She had Jeff Bernstein look over the questions and will resend to Board for comments. Peter Cocolis stated that this was more about getting staff from the Grid Modernization division of Eversource to come and answer the Board questions.

##### **3. Update on DPU 18-116, Active Demand Reduction Offering**

Maggie Downey stated that the Active Demand Reduction Offering was approved. The Compact is moving forward with the program. Austin Brandt has met with Eversource to go over the details.

##### **4. OPower Letters**

Maggie Downey stated that there will be another OPower letter going out soon.

##### **5. Upcoming Board Meetings**

Maggie Downey stated that the 2019-year end presentation will not happen until April.

##### **6. Conferences**

Maggie Downey stated that she has attended a couple of conferences recently. She attended the Massachusetts Municipal Association (“MMA”) Annual Trade Conference where there were a lot of great workshops and information on OPEB and liabilities. She also attended a Public Power Conference in Florida. She stated that they did a great job on the market analysis of the natural gas industry, which sets the price of electricity in New England.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

*Motion to adjourn made at 4:16 PM moved by Martin Culik, seconded by Colin Odell.*

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Allard

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS AND EXHIBITS:**

- Meeting Notice/Agenda
- January 8, 2020 Draft Meeting Minutes
- SMART Program Overview PowerPoint
- 2020 Operating Budget
- Cape & Vineyard Electrification Offering (“CVEO”) PowerPoint
- Main Streets Initiatives 2020 PowerPoint
- Summary of Massachusetts Climate Bills PowerPoint
- D.P.U. 18-116-A