

**Cape Light Compact JPE
Governing Board
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 8, 2023**

The Cape Light Compact JPE Board of Directors met on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was held as a hybrid meeting (in-person and through remote participation) through a Zoom videoconference for members of the Board with audio call-in available for members of the public, pursuant to St. 2023, c. 2, which, among other things, extends the temporary provisions pertaining to remote meetings of public bodies under the Open Meeting Law to March 31, 2025.

Participating In-Person Were:

1. Sean Hogan, Barnstable Alternate
2. Robert Schofield, Executive Committee, Bourne
3. Colin Odell, Executive Committee, Brewster
4. Brad Crowell, Dennis
5. Tom McNellis, Eastham
6. Valerie Bell, Harwich
7. Martin Culik, Chair/Executive Committee, Orleans
8. David Jacobson, Orleans Alternate
9. Nathaniel Mayo, Provincetown
10. Joyce Flynn, Vice Chair/Executive Committee, Yarmouth

Participating Remotely Were:

1. David Anthony, Secretary/Executive Committee, Barnstable
2. Bill Doherty, Bourne Alternate
3. Brian Miner, Chatham
4. Gary Senecal, Eastham Alternate
5. Matthew Patrick, Falmouth
6. Bob Higgins-Steele, Truro Alternate
7. Richard Elkin, Executive Committee, Wellfleet
8. Nicola Blake, Executive Committee, West Tisbury

Absent Were:

1. Forrest Filler, Aquinnah
2. Timothy Carroll, Chilmark
3. Meghan Gombos, Dukes County
4. Alan Strahler, Edgartown
5. Wayne Taylor, Mashpee
6. Peter Meleney, Oak Bluffs
7. Leanne Drake, Sandwich
8. Russ Hartenstine, Tisbury
9. Jarrod Cabral, Truro

Legal Counsel Participating Remotely:

Audrey Eidelman Kiernan, Esq., KO Law, P.C.
Rebecca Zachas, Esq., KO Law, P.C.

Staff Participation In-Person:

Maggie Downey, Administrator

Staff Participating Remotely:

Anneliese Conklin, Data Analyst
Briana Kane, Residential and Commercial & Industrial Program Manager
David Botelho, Data Analyst
Jason Bertrand, Marketing and Communications Coordinator
Laura Selmer, Analyst
Lindsay Henderson, Senior Analyst - Small Business
Margaret Song, Energy Efficiency Strategy and Policy Manager
Mariel Marchand, Power Supply Planner
Meredith Miller, Senior Analyst-Income Eligible
Tatsiana Nickinello, Energy Efficiency Analyst
Miranda Skinner, Strategy and Regulatory Analyst
Phil Moffitt, Chief Financial Officer
Dan Schell, Senior Analyst-Retail and Demand Response
Stephen McCloskey, Analyst - Home Energy Services

Public Participants:

Chris Powicki, Sierra Club of Cape Cod
Dan Wolf, Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative (CCCCC)
Miranda Daniloff Mancusi, Executive Director, CCCCC
Dorothy Savarese, Board President, CCCCC

Martin Culik called the meeting to order at 2:06 PM

1 PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION WITH MEMBERS OF CAPE COD CLIMATE CHANGE COLLABORATIVE

a. Overview of CCCCC

D. Savarese, CCCCC Board President expressed her gratitude to CLC Board and Maggie Downey, CLC Administrator for all their hard work and efforts. She highlighted challenges of addressing climate change and emphasized the necessity of resilience and adaptation, especially here on Cape Cod. The presentation was delivered about the CCCCC as an organization, its focus, and goals. Miranda Daniloff Mancusi was introduced to the participants. Ms. Daniloff Mancusi is CCCCC Executive Director. Prior to CCCCC, she led a division at Harvard University School of Public Health. She oversaw strategy, growth, administration, and outreach and created solutions at the intersection of environment and public health.

D. Savarese noted that CCCCC is a solution-oriented organization. The members work in different sectors: transportation, solar, municipal adaptation, and others. Its organizational mission is to discover the ways to protect the Cape Cod region and reduce the effects of climate change. They are focused on activation: using all the tools available to tackle challenges and finding solutions. The organization meets monthly and has 30 other organizations as collaborating partners. CLC was a presenting sponsor during the last meeting this summer.

Three Priority Climate Initiatives were presented with an objective to be time sensitive, leveraged (you have to do “this” first before doing next step), and what is critically needed:

- i. Housing and Climate Innovation Center
Programs and initiatives for college and school students.
- ii. Commissions Climate Action Plan roll-out
Example: In Chatham piloting a program that can be replicated in other towns.

iii. Smart, resilient, modern electric grid

Anything on modernization and adaptation side involves resilient modern electric grid. Collaborate with utility company to support development of the modernized grid.

b. Opportunities for Collaboration

D. Wolf continued with expressing his gratitude to both CCCCC leadership as well as CLC's Administrator's, Maggie Downey, support, and extensive field experience.

He noted that CCCCC strives to collaborate and wishes for many areas to work together. Thus, he envisions all levels of the government to work and collaborate with statutory, regulatory, and legislative framework. Mr. Wolf highlighted the organization's good working relationship with the private sector and mentioned that CCCCC was present at the recent Eversource substation ribbon cutting. He noted that he served on Maura Healey's Climate Transition team with D. Savarese.

The focus of the discussion was developing the relationship between the consumer of energy and the producer. Thus, it was highlighted that a healthy collaborative relationship with utilities is a path going forward. For Cape Cod specifically, the participants emphasized that having energy efficiency programs run by CLC rather than a centralized state agency is a highly preferred method.

The discussion ensued. The CCCC acknowledged that CLC is an important community player in providing information to the public. They also pointed out that people who are engaged at local government often lack any background in energy or climate. Many of them are volunteers. The discussion of funding arose. It was noted that although there are many grants available, sometimes a town does not have staff and resources to seek them out, thus missing out on opportunities. One of the options is to have a clearing house for all the towns to access cross learning, templates, sharing experience and models, frameworks, and toolkits.

W. Doherty pointed out that local boards of health may serve as a great resource for information, as climate and public health often are interrelated.

The discussion continued regarding countering misinformation and propaganda, for example anti wind energy narrative on misinforming public on actual effects of wind industry on marine wildlife. It was noted that bringing reputable environmental organizations is a good way to inform the public. M. Patrick pointed out that some of the propaganda has been traced back to the fossil fuel industry in some cases, and we should work with our strategic partners on the environmental side to provide factual information. It was stated that being proactive is a key, so people can hear enough to be able to make an informed decision.

There was general advice on how to collaborate with island towns. D. Wolf noted that the islands have intellectual and financial capacity to become the Samso island of MA.

Maggie Downey continued the discussion by pointing out that CLC will be submitting a first draft of the EE plan on March 31, 2024. The submission will include some differences from other Mass Save programs. CLC will be seeking ways to present this information to different groups. CLC would like to become a one stop shop to provide information on decarbonization, thus the right role for the Compact will need to be defined. She noted that the state of MA had a great plan, but the budget was not robust enough to implement it. Therefore, some things to consider for the next three-year plan is the budget as the rate payer cannot be the only funding source.

M. Patrick noted that town building inspectors don't have time to study and implement changes, and the state may want to look into funding and hiring town sustainability experts.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chris Powicki, Chair of Sierra Cape Cod, delivered his public comment. Mr. Powicki noted that Sierra Club is strongly interested in encouraging the purchase of offshore wind through the Compact’s aggregation. Sierra Club encouraged the Compact to broadly communicate interest in ensuring that a significant portion of this region’s energy needs is met by locally generated offshore wind power. Sierra Club will be urging their members, citizens, and climate advocates to reach out to their elected officials to request buying large quantities of offshore wind through the Compact to mitigate our region’s carbon footprint and make clean energy accessible to all. Written comment to be delivered via email after the meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Board considered the October 11, 2023, Open Session Compact Board Meeting Minutes. It was noted that the Board packet sent via email reflected an older set of minutes, while the website has the corrected revised version. The reference next to the footer is to be corrected.

Robert Schofield moved the Board to accept the minutes with an edit from David Anthony to remove the incorrect date on the footer and to release them, seconded by Joyce Flynn.

David	Anthony	Barnstable	Yes
Robert	Schofield	Bourne	Yes
Colin	Odell	Brewster	Yes
Brian	Miner	Chatham	Yes
Brad	Crowell	Dennis	Yes
Tom	McNellis	Eastham	Yes
Matt	Patrick	Falmouth	Yes
Valerie	Bell	Harwich	Yes
Martin	Culik	Orleans	Yes
Nate	Mayo	Provincetown	Abstain
Bob	Higgins-Steele	Truro	Yes
Richard	Elkin	Wellfleet	Yes
Nicola	Blake	West Tisbury	Yes
Joyce	Flynn	Yarmouth	Yes

Motion carried in the affirmative (13-0-1)

4. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT, MARTIN CULIK:

a. Letter from Green Energy Consumers Alliance

M. Downey presented a Green Energy Consumers Alliance letter for the Board’s possible endorsement. She explained that the letter is supporting specific legislation on various topics, all outlined in the letter. The Board discussed several areas addressed in the letter pertaining to the language regarding subsidies attributed to natural gas and hydrogen. The members noted that the agenda did not include for the Board to vote on this item. B. Miner suggested the Board authorize M. Downey to sign it on behalf of CLC. The members concluded that such endorsement may be better suited for a decision on town level. The item was tabled.

5. DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL VOTE TO PARTICIPATE IN EVERSOURCE’S ELECTRIC SECTOR MODERNIZATION PLAN AND APPROVAL OF A CONSUMER ADVOCACY WORKSHEET, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES (DPU 24-10) DOCKET, REBECCA ZACHAS, KO LAW

R. Zachas delivered a presentation on Eversource’s Electric Sector Modernization Plan (ESMP) (DPU 24-10). The draft ESMP is currently under review by the Grid Modernization Advisory Council (GMAC). The ESMP is addressing climate goals for 5 years, 10 years and an extended 2035–2050-time span. Eversource’s draft ESMP lays out electric demand forecast. The plan focuses on infrastructure investments and grid modification investments. Some of the projected investments include Martha’s Vineyard undersea cable, Dennis/Brewster substations and other capital investment projects. In the new plan, new bulk distribution substations increase supply by 75MW on Cape Cod. From Compact’s concern, the plan does not discuss enough non-wire alternatives and generally is lacking creative ways to address constraints in the distribution system, Eversource is not seeking to use the market, such as demand response, for example. Additionally, Eversource talked about the need to rate redesign. The plan does not express the need to partner with CLC in any way.

The schedule of GMAC process was presented that carries out into Fall 2024. CLC would want to monitor the ESMP process for varying rates. The Compact would hope for more innovative creative solutions as well as bringing EE in the plan.

A. Eidelman Kiernan noted that participation in DPU 24-10 has been built in the proposed legal services budget for 2024. A reasonable total legal services budget estimate of \$310,000 for 2024 includes monies allotted for the docket intervention.

M. Downey referenced Consumer Advocacy Worksheet: DPU 24-10 that states that a vote needs to be taken prior to intervening. M. Downey explained that the worksheet is an internal document that the Board first adopted in 2019 and is considered by the Board whenever energy efficiency dollars may be expended on the Compact’s consumer advocacy in DPU dockets.

Robert Schofield moved the CLC JPE Board to authorize the following motion, seconded by Valerie Bell:

“I move the Board vote to authorize the Compact’s participation in D.P.U. 24-10, adopt the Consumer Advocacy Worksheet for D.P.U. 24-10 and allocate costs between the Compact’s energy efficiency and operating budgets as set forth in the Consumer Advocacy Sheet.

The Compact Administrator is authorized and directed to take all actions necessary or appropriate to implement this vote, and to execute and deliver all documents as may be necessary or appropriate to implement this vote”.

David	Anthony	Barnstable	Yes
Robert	Schofield	Bourne	Yes
Colin	Odell	Brewster	Yes
Brian	Miner	Chatham	Yes
Brad	Crowell	Dennis	Yes
Tom	McNellis	Eastham	Yes
Matt	Patrick	Falmouth	Yes
Valerie	Bell	Harwich	Yes
Martin	Culik	Orleans	Yes
Nate	Mayo	Provincetown	Yes
Bob	Higgins-Steele	Truro	Yes
Richard	Elkin	Wellfleet	Yes
Nicola	Blake	West Tisbury	Yes
Joyce	Flynn	Yarmouth	Yes

Motion carried in the affirmative (14-0-0)

6. DISCUSS PROPOSED 2024 OPERATING BUDGET, MAGGIE DOWNEY

M. Downey reported that 77 % of the 2023 operating budget has been expended through October 31, 2023. DPU requested the CLC conduct an analysis of shared and direct costs relative to health insurance expenditure. Thus, group insurance costs were moved into the shared cost category without any amount adjustments. Overall, the calendar year 2024 budget reflects a proposed increase of approximately 4%. CLC will be looking for direction regarding the marketing budget for CLC Local Green. The Board discussed that the Local Green campaign marketing budget will be moved to the general marketing budget. There was general support for not investing significant funds to market Local Green while market prices are still high. For this year, the increase in spending was driven by the use of outside technical consultants and the municipal power supply RFP activities. The Draft budget will be brought back for further discussion and vote in December 2023.

B. Crowell left at 3:40 pm.

7. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT, MAGGIE DOWNEY:

a. Introduce Communications and Marketing Coordinator, Jason Bertrand

M. Downey introduced CLC's new Communications and Marketing Coordinator, Jason Bertrand. Mr. Bertrand greeted the Board. He shared his background information pertaining to his work in affordable housing and non-profit prior to joining the Compact.

b. Update on the CLC Board Strategic Planning Priorities

M. Downey noted that CLC strategic planning priorities are to be reflected in the 2025-2027 EE plan. The Board discussion is to be moved to the January- February timeline due to statewide delay in completion of reports that are necessary for planning. She highlighted discussion areas from the strategic planning session of income verification threshold, expanding CVEO, partnership and coaching. M. Downey stated that CLC demonstrated the highest conversion rates for installing recommended energy efficiency measures among other PA's. She added that the 80% Moderate Income threshold is too low based on high cost on the Cape and more work needs to be in progress to identify the appropriate income tranches.

c. Rebate processing update

M. Downey reminded the Board of the vendor switch that took place in July 2023. She reported that the transition was not very successful, and CLC is not satisfied with the new vendor. She noted that due to the fact it is the third vendor, CLC is considering bringing all or a portion of the processing in house. A more thorough analysis of the processing volume needs to be considered, however. More complicated rebates take longer time. On average, CLC sees about 100 HVAC rebates applications weekly, 40% of which are incomplete or contain discrepancies. On the product side (i.e., dehumidifiers), the volume is roughly 200 to 300 weekly. Among other items, CLC will continue to work on energy coordinator search for Brewster, Chatham, Eastham, and Orleans.

8. UPDATE FROM BOARD MEMBERS:

T. McNellis expressed gratitude to the staff members M. Marchand, T. Nickinello and M. Miller for presenting and manning the table at Orleans library EE and Solar event. M Culik thanked S. McCloskey for doing a great job at the Snow Library event as well.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn made at 4:10 PM moved by Bob Higgins-Steele, seconded by Valerie Bell.

David	Anthony	Barnstable	Yes
Robert	Schofield	Bourne	Yes
Colin	Odell	Brewster	Yes
Brian	Miner	Chatham	Yes
Tom	McNellis	Eastham	Yes
Matt	Patrick	Falmouth	Yes
Valerie	Bell	Harwich	Yes
Martin	Culik	Orleans	Yes
Nate	Mayo	Provincetown	Yes
Bob	Higgins-Steele	Truro	Yes
Richard	Elkin	Wellfleet	Yes
Nicola	Blake	West Tisbury	Yes
Joyce	Flynn	Yarmouth	Yes

Motion carried in the affirmative (13-0-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Tatsiana Nickinello

LIST OF DOCUMENTS AND EXHIBITS:

- Meeting Notice/Agenda
- Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative presentation
- Cape Light Compact Public Comment Protocols for Governing Board Meeting
- October 11, 2023, Draft Open Session Meeting Minutes
- Green Energy Consumer Alliance letter
- Eversource Electric Sector Modernization Plan presentation
- Consumer Advocacy Allocation Worksheet: DPU 24-10
- CY2023 operating budget and proposed CY2024 operating budget sheet
- Cape Light Compact JPE Legal Services Budget- Operating Account January-December 2024
- 2023 Operating Budget Expense Report 10.31.23
- Joint Request of Municipal Aggregators for Technical Session