

**Cape Light Compact JPE
Governing Board
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 4, 2024**

The Cape Light Compact JPE Board of Directors met on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, 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. David Anthony, Secretary/Executive Committee, Barnstable
2. Robert Schofield, Executive Committee, Bourne
3. Brad Crowell, Dennis
4. Gary Senecal, Eastham Alternate
5. Valerie Bell, Harwich
6. Martin Culik, Chair/Executive Committee, Orleans
7. Nathaniel Mayo, Provincetown
8. Bob Higgins-Steele, Truro Alternate
9. Joyce Flynn, Vice Chair/Executive Committee, Yarmouth

Participating Remotely Were:

1. Bill Doherty, Bourne Alternate
2. Colin Odell, Executive Committee, Brewster
3. Timothy Carroll, Chilmark
4. Alan Strahler, Edgartown
5. David Jacobson, Orleans Alternate
6. Suzanne Ryan-Ishkanian, Wellfleet
7. Nicola Blake, Executive Committee, West Tisbury

Absent Were:

1. Forrest Filler, Aquinnah
2. Sean Hogan, Barnstable Alternate
3. Brian Miner, Chatham
4. Tristan Israel, Dukes County
5. Tom McNellis, Eastham
6. Matthew Patrick, Falmouth
7. Wayne Taylor, Mashpee
8. Peter Meleney, Oak Bluffs
9. Leanne Drake, Sandwich
10. Russ Hartenstine, Tisbury
11. Jarrod Cabral, Truro

Legal Counsel Participating Remotely:

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

Staff Participation In-Person:

Maggie Downey, Chief Administrative Officer

Staff Participating Remotely:

Anneliese Conklin, Data Services Coordinator
Briana Kane, Implementation Manager
Dan Schell, Senior Analyst - Retail and Demand Response
David Maclellan, Senior Analyst
Jason Bertrand, Marketing & Communications Coordinator
Kate Coleman, Outreach Specialist
Kim Grant, Town Energy Coordinator
Laura Selmer, Energy Efficiency Analyst
Lindsay Henderson, Senior Analyst – Small Business
Mariel Marchand, Power Supply Planner
Meredith Miller, Senior Analyst- Income Eligible
Miranda Skinner, Strategy and Regulatory Analyst
Phil Moffitt, Chief Financial Officer
Stephen McCloskey, Energy Efficiency Analyst
Tatsiana Nickinello, Energy Efficiency Analyst

Public Participants:

None.

Martin Culik called the meeting to order at 2:02 PM.

1. Public Comment:

No written comments were received in advance of the meeting and no members of the public were present for public comment.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Board considered the November 13, 2024, Open and Executive Session Meeting Minutes.

There were two discrepancies noted by David Anthony in the November 13, 2024 minutes:

- 1. Page 4, “OPEB trust” should be defined as Other Post-Employment Benefits trust.
- 2. Page 7, the misspelling of the word “want” was noted in the first sentence of the last paragraph.

Valerie Bell moved the Board to accept the minutes and to release them as amended, seconded by Nate Mayo.

David	Anthony	Barnstable	Yes
Robert	Schofield	Bourne	Yes
Colin	Odell	Brewster	Yes
Brian	Miner	Chatham	Yes
Tim	Carroll	Chilmark	
Brad	Crowell	Dennis	Yes
Gary	Senecal	Eastham	Yes
Alan	Strahler	Edgartown	Yes
Valerie	Bell	Harwich	Yes
Martin	Culik	Orleans	Yes

Nate	Mayo	Provincetown	Yes
Bob	Higgins-Steele	Truro	Yes
Susan	Ryan-Ishkanian	Wellfleet	Abstain
Nicola	Blake	West Tisbury	Yes
Joyce	Flynn	Yarmouth	Yes

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

3. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT, MARTIN CULIK:

The Chairman reminded the Board to submit expense reports by the end of December.

Tim Carroll and Bill Doherty joined at 2.10 p.m.

4. DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL VOTE ON PROPOSED 2025 OPERATING BUDGET, MAGGIE DOWNEY:

Maggie Downey presented the proposed 2025 Operating Budget. The 2024 Operating Budget Expense Report through 11/27/2024 was submitted as part of the Board package for review together with a detailed proposed CY2025 Compact Operating Budget.

Bob Higgins-Steele moved the CLC JPE Board of Directors vote to appropriate the Cape Light Compact Joint Powers Entity Operating Budget in the amount of \$946,235.00.

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. Seconded by Joyce Flynn.

David	Anthony	Barnstable	Yes
Robert	Schofield	Bourne	Yes
Colin	Odell	Brewster	Yes
Brian	Miner	Chatham	Yes
Tim	Carroll	Chilmark	Yes
Brad	Crowell	Dennis	Yes
Gary	Senecal	Eastham	Yes
Alan	Strahler	Edgartown	Yes
Valerie	Bell	Harwich	Yes
Martin	Culik	Orleans	Yes
Nate	Mayo	Provincetown	Yes
Bob	Higgins-Steele	Truro	Yes
Susan	Ryan-Ishkanian	Wellfleet	Yes
Nicola	Blake	West Tisbury	Yes
Joyce	Flynn	Yarmouth	Yes

Motion carried in the affirmative (15-0-0)

5. DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL VOTE ON A 2% COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA) FOR COMPACT EMPLOYEES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2025:

The Board inquired if the cost-of-living adjustment has been built in the 2025 budget. Maggie Downey noted that the 2% adjustment indeed has been considered while planning the budget.

Bob Higgins-Steele moved the CLC JPE Board of Directors vote to approve a 2025 employee cost of living adjustment (COLA) in the amount of 2.0%. The effective date is January 1, 2025.

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. Seconded by Joyce Flynn.

David	Anthony	Barnstable	Yes
Robert	Schofield	Bourne	Yes
Colin	Odell	Brewster	Yes
Brian	Miner	Chatham	Yes
Tim	Carroll	Chilmark	Yes
Brad	Crowell	Dennis	Yes
Gary	Senecal	Eastham	Yes
Alan	Strahler	Edgartown	Yes
Valerie	Bell	Harwich	Yes
Martin	Culik	Orleans	Yes
Nate	Mayo	Provincetown	Yes
Bob	Higgins-Steele	Truro	Yes
Susan	Ryan-Ishkanian	Wellfleet	Yes
Nicola	Blake	West Tisbury	Yes
Joyce	Flynn	Yarmouth	Yes

Motion carried in the affirmative (15-0-0)

6. DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL VOTE TO ESTABLISH AN EMPLOYER MATCHING CONTRIBUTION TO EMPLOYEE 457B/ROTH RETIREMENT SAVINGS ACCOUNTS:

Maggie Downey reminded the Board that this topic was discussed during the November meeting. Based on research, she recommended authorizing an employer matching contribution to the employee 454B or Roth retirement savings account (maximum of \$200 per pay period per employee with a maximum contribution of \$5,200). The values have been built in the 2025 budget. The contributions are not to replace anything and will be shared costs. The contributions will reduce a participating employees’ taxable income.

Bob Higgins-Steele moved the CLC JPE Board of Directors vote to match, up to \$5,200, a Cape Light Compact employees' annual contribution to their 457B or ROTH retirement account. The effective date is January 1, 2025.

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. Seconded by Joyce Flynn.

David	Anthony	Barnstable	Yes
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Robert	Schofield	Bourne	Yes
Colin	Odell	Brewster	Yes
Brian	Miner	Chatham	Yes
Tim	Carroll	Chilmark	Yes
Brad	Crowell	Dennis	Yes
Gary	Senecal	Eastham	Yes
Alan	Strahler	Edgartown	Yes
Valerie	Bell	Harwich	Yes
Martin	Culik	Orleans	Yes
Nate	Mayo	Provincetown	Yes
Bob	Higgins-Steele	Truro	Yes
Susan	Ryan-Ishkanian	Wellfleet	Yes
Nicola	Blake	West Tisbury	Yes
Joyce	Flynn	Yarmouth	Yes

Motion carried in the affirmative (15-0-0)

7.UPDATE ON CAPE LIGHT COMPACT’S JANUARY ELECTRIC SUPPLY RATES, MARIEL MARCHAND:

Mariel Marchand presented power supply rates that will be in effect from January 2025 to July 2025. CLC standard rates are as follows: \$12.024 cents/kWh; \$13.102 cents/kWh and \$13.077 cents/kWh for Residential, Commercial and Industrial rates respectively. The full rates’ list was submitted in the Board package. Mariel Marchand reported that CLC’s rates came in below Eversource’s basic rate. The Board members commented how gas markets can have an impact on some rates, however, CLC’s rate is locked in for the next six months.

Valerie Bell suggested developing an informational sheet that would be easily digestible for customers on how to decipher electric bills. The Board inquired if there is more information available on the other utility’s fees and charges. Maggie Downey responded that for those charges that CLC is responsible for we do have information readily available. We do not have more information, however, for the charges that fall outside of CLC’s scope. She also pointed out that generally Eversource’s charges change every six months.

Martin Culik noted that consumers still receive a lot of advertising for competitive electric supply rate offers. On occasion, customers do enter such programs that end up being financially not advantageous to them. He pointed out that there is still a need to continue informing customers regarding rate topics.

Mariel Marchand added that CLC’s customer base remains steady. CLC continues their efforts on educating consumers regarding electric rates. Maggie Downey noted that she talks about it while presenting to town Select Boards and Town Council. These meetings are televised.

The Board suggested targeting senior centers’ newsletter to advertise and inform regarding electric rates. Dan and Jason will work on the script to go out in January when the rates will be in effect.

8.ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

1. Open Nominations for 2025 Cape Light Compact Executive Committee

The Board members nominated the following people for the Open Nominations for 2025 Cape Light Compact Executive Committee and Officers:

Martin Culik was nominated for the position of the Chair by Valerie Bell, seconded by Joyce Flynn.

Tom McNellis was nominated for the position of the Chair by Gary Senecal, seconded by Joyce Fynn. [Note: Gary Senecal withdrew this nomination at a later point in the meeting, captured in the Board Member Updates section of the minutes below.]

Joyce Flynn was nominated for the position of the Vice Chair by Valerie Bell, seconded by Bob Higgins-Steele.

David Anthony was nominated for the position of the Secretary by Valerie Bell, seconded by Nate Mayo.

Valerie Silva was nominated for the position of the Treasurer by Valerie Bell, seconded by David Anthony.

Phil Moffitt was nominated for the position of the Comptroller/Business Officer by Bob Schofield, seconded by David Anthony.

The slate of Executive Committee Officers at large was nominated as follows: Colin Odell, Bob Schofield and Nicola Blake nominated by Nate Mayo, seconded by Matthew Patrick.

2. MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Proposed Building Decarbonization Clearinghouse – Public Listening Sessions: Tuesday, December 3, 2024, 10:00am - 12:00pm and Wednesday, December 4, 2024, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Maggie Downey informed the Board that Martin Culik and Alan Strahler spoke at the public session. She added that a total of 23 members of the public voiced their opinions during the session. 22 people spoke in favor of option B (to maintain Mass Save program). Maggie Downey reminded the Board that there is another listening session that evening.

The Board discussed the statewide Clearinghouse proposals that are the subject of public comment. Maggie Downey stated that she and Margaret Song met with Katherine Antos, Undersecretary of Decarbonization & Resilience, Representative Fernandes and others to go over establishing a carve out for the Compact. Any changes to the Mass Save structure will require legislative changes and the impact on the Compact is still unknown. Maggie Downey noted that we need to prepare with our Cape and Islands delegation in case the changes do happen. The changes may potentially transform the Compact into a different entity. The development of events is not imminent, as the outcome, whichever it will be, will likely manifest itself in 2028. She added that it appears the Healey Administration does not want the gas utilities to continue delivering energy efficiency programs, but the concern is that the Compact may become the collateral damage in any proposed change to the structure of Mass Save.

3. Update on 2025-2027 Energy Efficiency and Decarbonization Plan (DPU 24-146): Public Hearings: Tuesday, December 3, Wednesday, December 4 and Thursday, December 5, 2024 (https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/Hearings/ByDate)

Maggie Downey stated that the Energy Efficiency and Decarbonization Plan Department of Public Utilities proceedings are ongoing. Discovery closed yesterday and 80 additional information requests were submitted, and they are due on Monday. The requests require considerable amount of work. The Compact specifically received several CLC specific questions: one on Community First Partnership regarding the contract arrangement, for which CLC has a direct contract eliminating a middleman; another question was on the topic

of opting out of the statewide call center (instead, CLC will continue performing the service in house); another question was regarding interest rates applied to the Compact’s energy efficiency surcharges, as the Department consolidated consideration of D.P.U. 24-32 with its consideration of DPU 24-146.

4. Additional Items

Maggie Downey updated the Board about the Cape and Vineyard Solar Loan. The Compact is waiting to receive the Security Letter from the US Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service. Once the letter arrives, the Compact will be able to request its first fund disbursement. CLC’s technical consultant Self Reliance will review an applicant’s solar loan design plan on behalf of the CLC. Dan Shell conducted the meeting with solar installers. The meeting was successful and had good attendance.

Maggie Downey encouraged the Board members to read the KO Law Memorandum RE: D.P.U. 24-10 dated September 9, 2024 that was submitted as a part of the Board packet. The process is ongoing with Phase 2 beginning now. The Board considered bringing Rebecca Zachas of KO Law and Kevin Galligan to the meeting to provide an update.

Board Member Updates:

David Anthony shared with the Board members that the Barnstable School District Superintendent engaged in the study to assesses the current school facilities. Some of the schools are nearly 70 years old, and it is challenging to make them energy efficient. He added that the language diversity as well as general changes in educational process may require considerable transformation of facilities, for example, smaller classroom sizes. The investment in new systems’ modifications must be done with complete understanding of current and future needs.

Valerie Bell informed the Board members about new mixed income housing on Queen Anne Road in Harwich-Pine Oak 5. The housing will be all electric construction and available for various age groups (not just seniors).

Brad Crowell noted that Falmouth YMCA facility received a ten-million-dollar donation. The project is in the design phase.

Gary Senecal noted that he wished to withdraw his nomination of Tom McNellis for Executive Committee position.

Martin Culik announced that next meeting is on January 8, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn made at 3:07 PM moved by Robert Schofield, seconded by Joyce Flynn.

David	Anthony	Barnstable	Yes
Robert	Schofield	Bourne	Yes
Colin	Odell	Brewster	Yes
Brian	Miner	Chatham	Yes
Tim	Carroll	Chilmark	Yes
Brad	Crowell	Dennis	Yes
Gary	Senecal	Eastham	Yes

Alan	Strahler	Edgartown	Yes
Valerie	Bell	Harwich	Yes
Martin	Culik	Orleans	Yes
Nate	Mayo	Provincetown	Yes
Bob	Higgins-Steele	Truro	Yes
Susan	Ryan-Ishkanian	Wellfleet	Yes
Nicola	Blake	West Tisbury	Yes
Joyce	Flynn	Yarmouth	Yes

Motion carried in the affirmative (15-0-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Tatsiana Nickinello

LIST OF DOCUMENTS AND EXHIBITS:

- Meeting Notice/Agenda
- November 13, 2024, Draft Open Session Meeting Minutes
- Proposed CY2025 Compact Operating Budget
- 2024 Operating Budget Expenses Report Through 11/27/2024
- Power Supply Rates January 2025-July 2025
- Massachusetts GHG Clearing House Stakeholder Outreach presentation
- KO Law Memorandum RE: D.P.U. 24-10 dated September 9, 2024