

**Cape Light Compact JPE
Governing Board
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 11, 2025**

The Cape Light Compact JPE Board of Directors met on Wednesday, June 11, 2025, 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. 2025, c. 2, which, among other things, extends the temporary provisions pertaining to remote meetings of public bodies under the Open Meeting Law to June 30, 2027.

Participating In-Person Were:

1. David Anthony, Secretary/Executive Committee, Barnstable
2. Robert Schofield, Executive Committee, Bourne
3. Colin Odell, Executive Committee, Brewster
4. Brian Miner, Chatham
5. Brad Crowell, Dennis
6. Tom McNellis, Eastham
7. Valerie Bell, Harwich
8. Martin Culik, Chair/Executive Committee, Orleans
9. David Jacobson, Orleans Alternate
10. Nathaniel Mayo, Provincetown
11. Bob Higgins-Steele, Truro Alternate
12. Joyce Flynn, Vice Chair/Executive Committee, Yarmouth

Participating Remotely Were:

1. Bill Doherty, Bourne Alternate
2. Tim Carroll, Chilmark
3. Alan Strahler, Edgartown
4. Scott Mueller, Falmouth
5. Wayne Taylor, Mashpee
6. Steve Tucker, Sandwich Alternate
7. Nicola Blake, Executive Committee, West Tisbury

Absent Were:

1. Forrest Filler, Aquinnah
2. Tristan Israel, Dukes County
3. Peter Meleney, Oak Bluffs
4. Leanne Drake, Sandwich
5. Russ Hartenstine, Tisbury
6. Jarrod Cabral, Truro
7. Suzanne Ryan-Ishkanian, Wellfleet

Legal Counsel Participating Remotely:

Audrey Eidelman Kiernan, Esq., KO Law, P.C.
Erin O'Toole, Esq., KO Law, P.C.

Staff Participation In-Person:

Jason Bertrand, Marketing & Communications Coordinator
Kim Grant, Town Energy Coordinator
Maggie Downey, Chief Administrative Officer
Mariel Marchand, Power Supply Planner
Miranda Skinner, Strategy & Regulatory Analyst

Staff Participating Remotely:

Angela Hurwitz, Senior IT Services & Data Management Analyst
Briana Kane, Implementation Manager
Dan Schell, Senior Analyst - Retail and Demand Response
David Maclellan, Senior Analyst
Laura Selmer, Energy Efficiency Analyst
Lindsay Henderson, Senior Analyst – Small Business
Phil Moffitt, Chief Financial Officer

Public Participants:

None.

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

Public Comment:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Board considered the May 14, 2025, Open Session Meeting Minutes.

Robert Schofield moved the Board to accept the minutes and to release them, seconded by Colin Odell.

David	Anthony	Barnstable	Yes
Robert	Scofield	Bourne	Yes
Colin	Odell	Brewster	Yes
Brian	Miner	Chatham	Abstained
Brad	Crowell	Dennis	Abstained
Tom	McNellis	Eastham	Yes
Alan	Strahler	Edgartown	Yes
Scott	Mueller	Falmouth	Yes
Valerie	Bell	Harwich	Yes
Wayne	Taylor	Mashpee	Abstained
Martin	Culik	Orleans	Yes
Nate	Mayo	Provincetown	Yes
Steve	Tucker	Sandwich	Abstained
Bob	Higgins-Steele	Truro	Yes
Nicola	Blake	West Tisbury	Yes
Joyce	Flynn	Yarmouth	Yes

Motion carried in the affirmative (12-0-4)

JULY POWER SUPPLY RATES, MARIEL MARCHAND:

Mariel Marchand reviewed the Power Supply Rates: July '25 – January '26 PowerPoint slide. She stated that the Compact's standard residential rate is 13.29 cents/kWh, commercial is 13.253 cents/kWh, and industrial is 12.493 cents/kWh. The slide also showed the Local Green 50% and 100% power supply rates. She also compared the Compact's rates to Eversource basic service rates. She stated that all of the Compact standard supply rates are lower than Eversource's rates. She stated that the rates are on the website and have been posted in the local newspapers. The Compact also issued a press release earlier in the week.

UPDATE ON RESULTS OF TOWN REPORT SURVEY, KIM GRANT:

Kim Grant reviewed the Data Project Survey Results PowerPoint. She reviewed the results of the survey sent out after last month's Board Meeting. She stated that 20 Board members and/or alternate Board members representing 11 towns responded. The majority agreed about what data they would like to see in the reports. They want to continue to do a quarterly report sent out to the towns and post the monthly reports to the Compact's website.

Kim Grant reviewed the list of data points that would be included in the reports and then asked the Board if there was anything else they would like to add. Tom McNellis stated that it would be nice to have an annual summary as well. Colin Odell stated that MMBtu should be added since we are now focusing on carbon reduction.

UPDATE ON CAPE LIGHT COMPACT WEBSITE, JASON BERTRAND:

Jason Bertrand reviewed the Updated Timeline for Website Project PowerPoint. He reviewed the updated timeline. He stated that on June 16th the website will be sent to staff for review and the deadline for feedback from them will be on June 20th. He stated that after making changes from the staff it will then be sent to the Board on June 25th for their review and the deadline for their feedback will be July 9th. He stated that July 9th is the next Board Meeting in case anyone needs to have a discussion on any aspects of the website. He says that he is hoping to launch the website on August 1st or earlier.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

1. Changes to Energy Saver Home Loan Program

Maggie Downey stated staff have identified ways to make the Energy Saver Home Loan (ESHL) more accessible to customers. One improvement is that participating customers can now have a single home energy assessment, instead of two assessments with two different vendors. She stated that the Compact's lead vendor, RISE Engineering, can now complete the ESHL and the Mass Save home energy assessment for customers. This eliminates the need for two site visits. A second improvement relates to solar eligibility. Customers who installed heat pumps between 2019 and 2022 are now eligible to fund solar as a standalone measure.

2. Follow-up on Cape & Vineyard Electric Cooperative Strategic Planning Session

Maggie Downey stated that the Cape and Vineyard Electric Cooperative (CVEC) had a strategic planning session recently. She stated that she is starting to put together a list of CVEC's obligations and responsibilities. Not necessarily for the Compact to assume any responsibilities, or that CVEC will dissolve, but just in case,

putting together a list of things we would not want the Cape and Vineyard towns to lose. She stated that she is working with the legal counsel to create the list.

Tim Carroll joined the meeting at 3:10PM.

OVERVIEW OF THE ENERGY AFFORDABILITY, INDEPENDENCE, AND INNOVATION ACT, KO LAW, P.C.

Audrey Eidelman Kiernan reviewed the Energy Affordability, Independence & Innovation Act (H-4144) Summary Power Point. She stated that the bill was introduced by Governor Healey on May 13, 2025. She stated that this summary focuses on the key provisions of the bill that might directly impact the Compact and was informed by feedback from Maggie Downey. She stated that the Healey-Driscoll administration policy goals are to drive down energy bills, become more energy independent, and increase Massachusetts' competitiveness.

Audrey Eidelman Kiernan stated that one of the key concepts of the bill has to do with electric supply changes such as residential competitive supply market reforms. She stated the proposed changes would: 1) eliminate automatic renewals and variable rate supply contracts, 2) establish new licensing requirements for competitive electric suppliers, 3) increase penalties for violations of law, and 4) create a new Department of Public Utilities (DPU) website for processing customer enrollments. She stated that the Compact may want to monitor to confirm that municipal aggregation customers are not affected by these market reforms. She stated that in addition the DPU would have flexibility in setting the timing and duration of utility basic service supply procurements. Therefore, the Compact may need to adapt or consider changes to its power supply strategy since the Compact's pricing is competitive with basic service and its pricing periods mirror Eversource's basic service pricing periods.

Audrey Eidelman Kiernan reviewed the elements of the bill that would impact Mass Save[®] and the Compact as a program administrator (PA) of Mass Save. She stated that the new date for the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Green House Gas (GHG) emissions reductions goals letter would be February 15th instead of March 1st. She stated that this would allow more time for preparing the next Energy Efficiency Plan (Plan). She stated that this bill would remove gas companies from Plan administration. This would allow customers that heat with natural gas to be served by the Compact. She stated that the future role of National Grid with respect to the Compact's administration of energy efficiency has not been determined. She stated that the ratepayer funding would be pooled, subject to DPU review and approval. She stated that the impact to the Compact of pooled funding is that funds paid by Cape and Vineyard customers may be spent in other Massachusetts cities and towns and there would no longer be a Compact Plan but rather a statewide Plan. She stated that the bill would require the program administrators to annually fund the Department of Energy Resources (DOER)'s statewide building decarbonization and energy efficiency database, at a budget and with a program design that must be approved by DPU. The impact to the Compact would be that ratepayer funds used for this database reduces funds for energy efficiency programs. She stated that another change would be that the utilities may issue DPU approved rate-reduction bonds to spread program costs over the useful life of energy saving measures. It is unclear how the Compact would participate in this financing option. She stated that the Compact needs to ensure its customers do not pay twice and have the same financial benefits as customers of electric utilities.

Audrey Eidelman Kiernan continued to review the Mass Save changes. She stated that the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council (EEAC) is reconstituted as the Building Decarbonization and Energy Efficiency Advisory Council. The Compact remains on the Council as a non-voting member. She stated that another change is a 20% funding requirement for Low Income customers and an obligation on program administrators to prioritize Moderate Income households, renters and small commercial businesses. She stated that this increases funds designated for these customers but may result in potentially less funds for market-rate customers. She stated that

the bill includes changes to authorized program offerings, including allowing programs for geographically targeted areas. She stated that the Compact may propose Cape and Vineyard specific enhancements through this program offering (that would then have to be approved by the DPU). She stated that the bill clarifies certain changes to cost-effective screening for energy efficiency. This may allow new energy efficiency and decarbonization measures to be funded. She stated lastly, the bill clarifies that municipal aggregators are not subject to financial penalties for non-compliance with an approved plan. The impact to the Compact is that this would remove the potential financial exposure for not achieving goals.

Audrey Eidelman Kiernan reviewed the timing of the Mass Save changes. She stated that the statutory changes to Plan administration are effective January 1, 2028, for the 2028-2030 Plan. She stated that the Program Administrators (PAs) will need to work on transitioning to a new model while implementing the 2025-2027 Plan. She stated that the impact to the Compact would be 1) the Board and community role in design of Plan will change, 2) staff will be both implementing a Plan and implementing significant structural changes to the design of the next Plan, 3) the Compact will have significant interaction with the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council and other key stakeholders, and 4) the Compact will need to participate in multiple DPU proceedings that will be necessary to effectuate the changes to Mass Save. Maggie Downey stated that the bill may not be enacted until July 2026, which would mean that the Compact and other PAs would need to have a plan for the pooling of funds and other changes in a very short time period. She stated that the PAs were given the opportunity to provide feedback to EEA on the draft bill. They had commented on the pooling issue, to make sure that the process of pooling is equitable and fair, but it did not make it to the final bill. She stated that it does however still require DPU review and approval, so she hopes the PAs continue to advocate for certain equitable practices.

David Anthony asked if the Compact has the staff if these changes are enacted. Maggie Downey stated that it is too early to tell. She stated that also this is all energy efficiency related and that the budget has already been approved. Therefore, the Compact can't hire more than they have already planned for in the 2025-2027 Plan. Scott Mueller asked in terms of the proposed rules for competitive electric suppliers, is there any carve out for municipal aggregators? Audrey Eidelman Kiernan stated that it is her understanding that the intent of those provisions was not meant to apply to municipal aggregation. She stated that they really are meant to apply to the individual residential competitive supply market, the market that the Attorney General's Office (AGO) has been focused on for years now.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, MARTIN CULIK:

a. Discussion and Potential Vote on Succession Planning for CLC Administrator Position

Martin Culik stated that the Board had started to discuss at a previous meeting about the succession planning for the Compact's Administrator position. He stated that now that the legislation has come out, the Board must continue the discussion.

Martin Culik asked if counsel had anything to say before the Board moved forward with discussion. Erin O'Toole stated that one of the things that they would need to be involved in is if the Board decides to use an employment contract as a recruiting tool because the contract needs to be developed. She stated that it was something that the Board would need to consider. She stated that if the Board decides to bring on a consultant that this will need to be done consistent with Massachusetts procurement laws, and this could impact the timeline. Martin Culik stated that he had lengthy conversations with legal counsel, and they stated that the Board can appoint a small group of Board members as long as it does not make up a quorum of either Executive Committee Members or Board Members. Maggie Downey asked if it would still be subject to the open meeting law. Erin O'Toole stated that it depends on what the Board wants the group to do.

Bill Doherty stated that he believes that it is very important that we recognize the talent that is already on staff and give them an opportunity to make a presentation for themselves before looking outside the organization. He stated that he thinks it is important because of the leadership and the knowledge that the present staff has and has been given. Alan Strahler stated that given the situation ahead, the Compact needs to be able to react and be proactive. Therefore, he believes that an internal candidate will be best. He stated that he does not have an issue looking outside the organization, but thinks it is important to keep that in mind. Several Board Members commented that they agreed that there is a need to look internally but that they are not opposed to an external search that considers internal candidates as well. Brad Crowell stated that he would also like to include those who are alumni of this organization, people that work as contractors for the Compact, and people that are the Compact's regulators. He stated they've all touched the organization in different ways and may have relevant experience. He stated that the Board should bring in a consultant as well because the Board doing this process on their own would take longer. David Anthony stated that Barnstable has used consultants in the past and doing so took time and money. He stated that he believes if the Board chooses to go the consultant route it won't end up someplace dramatically different than if the Board were to do this on its own.

Colin Odell stated that he believes it is a good idea to extend the search outside of the Compact because of how it may look to others if the Compact were only looking internally. He stated that also, if the Board were to decide on an internal candidate in the end, that would just put more confidence in that candidate. Nate Mayo stated that he is in favor of some outside support to help guide the Board and has the knowledge of the hiring process that the Board may not.

Martin Culik stated that he is aware of a few people with experience that could be considered by the Compact for consulting services. Maggie Downey asked for a sense of the Board about whether they would like her as Chief Procurement Officer to look into consultants' proposals, prices, tasks etc. and consider a timeframe for the process of hiring a new administrator and bring back the information to the July Board meeting for the Board to discuss and choose how they would like to move forward. The sense of the Board was yes. She stated that there would also need to be a vote to appropriate funds for the consultant. She stated that the Board should email her the names of consultants they would like her to look into.

Wayne Taylor left the meeting at 4:30PM.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was made at 4:36 PM moved by Robert Schofield, seconded by Colin Odell.

David	Anthony	Barnstable	Yes
Robert	Schofield	Bourne	Yes
Colin	Odell	Brewster	Yes
Brian	Miner	Chatham	Yes
Tim	Carroll	Chilmark	Yes
Brad	Crowell	Dennis	Yes
Tom	McNellis	Eastham	Yes
Alan	Strahler	Edgartown	Yes
Scott	Mueller	Falmouth	Yes
Valerie	Bell	Harwich	Yes
Wayne	Taylor	Mashpee	Yes
Martin	Culik	Orleans	Yes

Nate	Mayo	Provincetown	Yes
Steve	Tucker	Sandwich	Yes
Bob	Higgins-Steele	Truro	Yes
Nicola	Blake	West Tisbury	Yes
Joyce	Flynn	Yarmouth	Yes

Motion carried in the affirmative (16-0-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Allard

LIST OF DOCUMENTS AND EXHIBITS:

- Meeting Notice/Agenda
- May 14, 2025, Draft Open Session Meeting Minutes
- Power Supply Rates: July '25 – January '26 PowerPoint slide
- Data Project Survey Results PowerPoint
- Updated Timeline for Website Project PowerPoint
- Energy Affordability, Independence & Innovation Act (H-4144) Summary Power Point