

Energy and Climate Action Committee Meeting

Minutes – 9/10/2025

[Approved 11/18/2025]

Virtual Meeting

Meeting Start: 7:00 pm Eastern

Committee Members Present: Michael DeChiara, Gail Fleischaker, Nate Heard, Greg Day

Topic: discuss Michael's and Nate's earlier conversation with Colonial Power Group (CPG) and what to recommend to Select Board

- Nate Heard catches up with ECAC on the outcome from his meeting with CPG.
 - Explanation for how to read the rate comparison chart, which lists prices for up to 3 separate energy providers at varying levels of optional REC purchases.
 - Reinforcement on how various available products result in changes in behavior. CPG corroborated to Nate that purchasing additional RECs did not necessarily lead to an increase in green energy production, as purchasing a REC requires the energy to already exist.
- Michael adds comment on Alternative Use cost
- Nate continues to explain the complexity of the REC program and how it impacts the grid. Cites academic literature that claims we cannot send an effective signal to suppliers through purchasing of RECs.
- Gail asks and receives confirmation that we must choose a single supplier.
- Michael discusses how to handle the perception of REC availability
 - Suggests offering setting MA requirements as default and offering 100% class 1 RECs for voluntary assignment
- Nate confirms and advocates for reducing cost of electricity to help lower cost for other electrification projects.
- Nate explains rationale for a 3-year price lock-in; prices fluctuate but trend upwards, by locking in the price for a longer period, low-cost and stable pricing is easier to offer to the town.
- Nate summarizes from a CPG presentation on MA renewable energy requirement.
 - Energy supply must come from at least 63.3% Renewables in 2025
 - Increases each year, 69.1% by 2026, 76.0% by 2027, and 81.0% by 2028 (should continue to 100% by 2030)
- Gail moves committee recommend choices to Select Board of:
 - Default MA renewable energy requirements
 - 100% class 1 RECs
 - 3 year term
- Nate- aye, Michael- aye, Greg- aye, Gail- aye, motion carries.
- Greg asks about how CCA will be evaluated long term, the group recognizes importance and decides to defer that conversation.
- Michael outlines remaining process:

- Approval from Select Board
- CPG acquires “executable pricing” (which is only valid for the week it is acquired)
- Final call with Select Board to sign off on pricing
- Program running by December
- Michael suggests running a forum on CCA, including discussion of effectiveness over time and how to proceed with sign-up. Suggests using Sept 23 meeting for continued discussion.
- Logistics:
 - Assuming the Select Board approves, when do mailers get sent out?
 - Sept 30 special town meeting extra info?
 - E-mail to town and addition to shutesbury.org website.
- Michael changes topics to discuss solar installations with regard to CCA. Direct investment in solar installation is possible, but finding a location has complications. Contributing to building new clean energy is considered to be far more impactful than investing in RECs.
- Nate moves to end the meeting, Greg seconds.
 - Gail- aye, Michael- aye, Greg- aye, Nate- aye, motion carries.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:39 PM