

Energy and Climate Action Committee Meeting
Minutes – 8/26/2025
[Approved 9/23/2025]
Virtual Meeting

Meeting Start: 7:00pm

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

Committee Members, updated: Select Board appointed Greg Day as ECAC member at their 7/29/25 meeting.

Public: None

Guests: Denise Allard, Mark Cappadona, Joe Cappadona (Colonial Power Group)

Planning and Discussion on next steps —

Community Choice Aggregation [Colonial Power Group (CPG)]

- Denise: The procedural timeline “Where We’ve Been” concludes with DPU’s approval of Shutesbury’s aggregation plan on 8/25/25, a very quick approval made possible under DPU’s new guidelines. “Where We’re Going” lays out what’s next, now that we have a DPU Order. (The two timelines are appended to these minutes.) Aggregation could start as early as December 2025.
- Mark: Might want to set up CPG contract to end at same time as nearby aggregation term ends, leaving open the possibility of joining their aggregation.
- Denise: What is Shutesbury looking for?
- Nate: What I have read about the renewable energy certificate (REC) market suggests that it's broken in terms of its ability to generate a signal to inform industry decisions on what to build and where. It's important that when we go to the Town and say we're offering the basic state requirement plus 20% RECs that that 20% has actual environmental benefit.
- Mark: Voluntary RECs do not change the grid. They originate from what is already built. With the SMART program, there is an opportunity to develop new community solar and claim true additionality, which is new renewable energy that would not otherwise have been created.
- Denise: Furthermore, SMART-backed community solar would create a discount on the current product.

- Nate moves that Shutesbury offer the “meets MA requirement” as default offering in our aggregation; Gail seconds.
Vote on default offering: Michael DeChiara, Aye; Gail Fleischaker, Aye; Nate Heard, Aye; Greg Day, Aye
- Michael: We’ll set up another meeting to see Mark’s vendor costs for the basic requirement and RECs options and make a decision as to what we want to recommend to the Select Board.

Decarbonization [Michael]

- Michael and Nate met with DOER consultants and Buildings Committee Chair Frank McGinn on site visit of municipal buildings. Buildings Committee’s data laid a good foundation and Frank’s presence on the tour was key to an informative tour.
- Awaiting DOER report in anticipation of applying for approval as Climate Leader. Report’s actionable items will be helpful in applying for grants.

EV chargers [Greg]

- Greg met with Isaac for a handoff of information and contacts.
- Nick (East Coast Renewables) has suggested we move quickly on this. Greg will arrange a site visit to check out potential charger placements.

Minutes

Gail moved that minutes of 7/22/25 be approved, Greg seconded:
Vote to approve minutes: Michael DeChiara, Aye; Gail Fleischaker, Aye; Nate Heard, Aye; Greg Day, Aye

Next date

ECAC special meeting on September 10th at 7:00pm to hear CPG report re community solar alternative for Shutesbury.
ECAC regular meeting on September 23rd at 7:00pm

Close

Greg moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:37pm, Nate seconded.
Vote to adjourn: Michael DeChiara, Aye; Gail Fleischaker, Aye; Nate Heard, Aye; Greg Day, Aye

Respectfully submitted, Gail Fleischaker & Nate Heard



Town of Shutesbury Municipal Aggregation Approval Timeline – “Where We’ve Been”

- Town Meeting ***(June 3, 2023)***
 - Approved Article 3 by which the Town declared its intent to become an aggregator of electricity
- Consultant Agreement ***(June 25, 2024)***
 - Signed a consultant agreement with CPG
- DOER Consultation ***(October 11, 2024)***
 - Conducted meeting with the Town, CPG and the DOER to review the processes, consequences and outcomes of municipal aggregation
 - Discussed DOER Recommended Best Practices for Advancing Clean Energy in Municipal Aggregation Plans
- Public Review & Comment Period ***(February 3 – March 7, 2025)***
 - Posted the Aggregation Plan for public review and comment
- Aggregation Plan Approved ***(April 8, 2025)***
 - Select Board voted to approve the Aggregation Plan
- DPU Submission & Order
 - Filed the Town’s Petition with the DPU seeking approval of its Aggregation Plan ***(May 28, 2025)***
 - Conducted required public hearing ***(July 16, 2025)***
 - DPU approved the Aggregation Plan, which allows the Town to go out in the competitive marketplace and solicit pricing for its residents ***(August 25, 2025)***

NOTE: Basic Service rates change twice a year or more, depending on rate class. As a result, the aggregation rate may not always be lower than the Basic Service rate. The goal of the aggregation is to deliver savings over the life of the Program against National Grid Basic Service. However, future savings cannot be guaranteed.



Town of Shutesbury Municipal Aggregation Procurement & Outreach – “Where We’re Going”

- Supply Bidding
 - RFP developed and distributed by CPG *(TBD)*
 - CPG provides Town with indicative/executable pricing for program launch *(December 2025 meter read start?)*
 - Bids received and reviewed with Town *(TBD)*
 - Town chooses supplier, or rejects bids *(by 2:30 PM on bid day)*
- Public Information/Customer Notification
 - Statutory customer notification letters sent by supplier to all Basic Service accounts *(30 day opt-out period)*
 - Informational postcard mailed to accounts on third-party supply
 - CPG provided press release issued upon Town approval
 - Informational meetings
 - Local cable programs, if any
 - Social media content, if applicable, provided by CPG
- Implementation
 - CPG manages opt-out process and all public requests for information and questions
- Ongoing Service
 - CPG manages future opt-outs and opt-ins
 - CPG files required reports
 - CPG manages ongoing requests for information
 - CPG conducts regular meetings with Town as required/requested

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