

Residential Ratepayers' Advisory Board
January 23, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Present for the Board:

Claira Monier, Chair
Dick Weaver
Jim Garrity
Ryan Clouthier
Dana Nute
Jim O'Brien

Present for the OCA:

D. Maurice Kreis
Dr. Pradip Chattopadhyay
Jim Brennan
Jamie Breen

Guest Speakers: Michael Licata, Liberty Utilities and Patricia Martin, Rindge Energy Commission

Ms. Monier called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

1. **Minutes of October 24th, 2016 Meeting**

Mr. Monier moved to approve the minutes; Mr. Clouthier seconded the motion. The Board members agreed unanimously, except Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Nute, who abstained.

Ms. Monier and Mr. Kreis updated the Board on HB198. This bill relates to the qualifications for the position of the Consumer Advocate. The hearing was held on January 12th and Mr. Kreis and Ms. Monier attended. Ms. Monier testified at the hearing in support maintaining the existing statutory requirement that the Consumer Advocate be an attorney.

2. **Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Mr. Garrity moved to re-elect Ms. Monier as Chair and Mr. Moses as Vice-Chair for 2017. Mr. Nute seconded the motion and the Board members agreed unanimously.

3. **Presentations from Michael Licata of Liberty Utilities and activist Patricia Martin (from Rindge) on future of natural gas in New Hampshire**

Mr. Licata made a presentation concerning:

- Customer Growth, Benefits and Current Supply Portfolio
- Hanover/Lebanon Franchise Petition and Facility Site Selection
- Customer Protections

Ms. Martin made a presentation concerning energy costs in New Hampshire and the extent to which they are unreasonable, the implications of increasing reliance on natural gas for home heating in New Hampshire, and the implications of expanding natural gas franchise territory in New Hampshire.

4. **Case Update**

Mr. Kreis updated the Board on the status of several active dockets and pending legislation, including:

- DE 16-576 Net Metering
- DE 16-383 Liberty Rate Case
- DE 16-384 Unitil Rate Case

- DW 16-806 PWW Rate Case
- HB179 HB198 HB199 HB317
- HB493 HB592

5. **Other topics**

Ms. Monier reminded members about July and October Board term expiration dates. She asked those whose terms were due to expire to consider continuing to serve on the Board. Mr. Kreis requested that any member who does not wish to be re-appointed let him know in advance so that plans can be made to find a new Board member. Mr. Kreis updated the Board on the progress of the search for a new Staff Attorney and the Governor's recent announcement that all new hires must be approved by his office. He also proposed that at the May 15th meeting the Board discuss goals and performance measures that the OCA must submit in connection with its Fiscal Year 2019 budget request.

6. **Public input**

There was no public input.

Ms. Monier moved to adjourn. Mr. O'Brien seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.