

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
REMOTE ONLY
MINUTES
Wednesday April 17, 2024 at 7:00 pm

PRESENT: Richard Arnold, Dr. Dominic Amirtharaj and Kim Netter

Staff: Abbey Myers, Acting Director of Health, Shuang Shen, Public Health Nurse, Lauren Olsen, Chief Environmental Health Officer, Maureen Foley, Clerk

In attendance Dawn Thompson, Conrad Kauffman, Kevin Lei, John Catalano, Sibhon Branch, Linda Scott

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Arnold called the meeting to order 7:02 pm

Minutes

Minutes were approved for March 20, 2024

(Amirtharaj, Netter) (3,0)

Roll Call

Public Comment

No Public Comments

Approval of an Permit applications for:

Empress Therapeutics – 99 Coolidge Avenue

Dawn Thompson, Head of Platform Development gave a short presentation of the company's activities. Conrad Kauffman, Operations Manager explained the layout and training protocols. Mr. Arnold asked if Empress will be modifying genes. Dr. Thompson stated Empress is recoding genes to mimic the GI. Dr. Amirtharaj asked if Empress uses viruses, bacteria, and human cell lines. Ms. Netter inquired about the training protocols for employees.

Dr. Amirtharaj made a motion to recommend approval of a permit for Empress.

(Amirtharaj, Netter) (3,0)

Roll Call

Vote to adopt Dumpster Regulations

Ms. Myers stated the regulations will begin on July 1, 2024 to serve as an education period.

Registrations will be required by December 31, 2024. The Regulations provide accountability to all who have dumpsters at their place of businesses, multi housing units and construction sites.

Ms. Netter motioned to close the hearing.

(Netter, Amirtharaj) (3,0)

Roll Call

Dr. Amirtharaj to adopt the Dumpster Regulations as written.

(Amirtharaj, Netter) (3,0)

Roll Call

Housing Hearing John Catalano - 44 Prescott Street

Ms. Olsen explained the process to the BOH when the Health Department receives a housing complaint from a tenant. Upon the initial inspection of the housing unit, there were 4 to 5 violations at 44 Prescott Street. The Order to Correct letter was sent to the owner of the property, Mr. Catalano. Mr. Catalano reported he made the repairs in a timely manner. Ms. Olsen stated the tenant has not allowed the Health Department to reinspect the unit since the repairs were completed.

Mr. Catalano spoke about the situation with the tenant and the repairs he made to comply with Housing Regulations.

Mr. Arnold asked how Mr. Catalano may be free and clear of this case. Ms. Myers stated Mr. Catalano can give 48 hours notice to the tenant to enter the property. Mr. Catalano can take pictures of the repairs. Health Department will accept Mr. Catalano's pictures in this case as proof. The Health Department will close the complaint at that point.

Public Health Nurse Updates

Ms. Shen requested to speak to the BOH about the two events she attended.

1. **Vector Borne Illnesses** – The vectors are ticks and mosquitoes. There were 34 cases in Watertown last year from Vector Borne Illnesses primarily from people who traveled to Cape Cod and Florida. People need to wear appropriate clothing, light colored, insect repellent. Try not to go outside during sunrise and sunset.

2. **NACCHO – Emergency Preparedness Summit Cleveland, OH** This conference addressed; extreme weather, AI, emergency response for aging population, youngsters and unhoused. The increased heat affects air quality, food borne illnesses and longer breeding periods for the pests.

Ms. Shen had a sharps collection day on April 6th and 60 people attended. The flu vaccines for the fall has been ordered and will be delivered in September. Ms. Shen is having another CPR/First Aid class on April 22nd.

Department Update

1. Lauren Olsen, Chief Environmental Officer and Assistant Director and Ms. Olsen introduced herself to the BOH.
2. Health is doing rodent mitigation on construction sites.
3. Health has an active court case for hoarding.
4. Wayside Youth assisted 52 households in the 1st quarter of this year. Most of the cases were for housing. Then Wayside assisted with food security and other resources.

Next Meeting

May 15, 2024

Adjourn:

Adjourned the meeting at 8:14 PM