

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

MINUTES

The Watertown Board of Health has scheduled a In Person Meeting in The Lower Hearing Room

Wednesday March 20, 2024 at 7:00 pm

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

Staff: Abbey Myers, Acting Director of Health Maureen Foley, Clerk

In attendance Roman Bogorad, David Keane, Mei Zhang, Cory Martin, Cris Yordan, Getzabel Guevara, Fatima Guevara

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Arnold called the meeting to order 7:05 pm

Minutes

Minutes were approved for February 21, 2024

(Amirtharaj, Netter) (3,0)

Roll Call

Public Comment

No Public Comments

Approval of an Amendment applications for:

Souffle Therapeutics Inc. – 85 Walnut Street #2N

Roman Bogorad, VP of Lab Operations gave a short presentation of the company's activities.

Getzabel Guevara, Safety Partners gave a short presentation of the company's vivarium. Dr. Amirtharaj asked about Souffle's research. Ms. Netter asked about the SOPs for gloving and waste disposal. David Keane stated there are regular biowaste pick-ups.

Dr. Amirtharaj made a motion to recommend approval of a vivarium for Souffle.

(Amirtharaj, Arnold) (2,0)

(Netter) Abstained

Roll Call

Approval of a Permit applications for:

SYNCELL – 200 Dexter Avenue #120 & #161

Mei Zhang, Director of Lab Activities gave a short presentation of the company's activities. Mr. Zhang gave an explanation of the MICROSCOOP start up product. Ms. Netter asked who is SYNCELL marketing to? Dr. Amirtharaj asked how the cells react to each other. Mr. Arnold questioned the use of two suites.

Ms. Netter made a motion to recommend approval of a permit for SYNCELL.

(Netter, Amirtharaj) (3,0)

Roll Call

Introduction to Dumpster Regulations

Ms. Myers presented the process for the BOH to approve Dumpster Regulations. Ms. Myers stated the Dumpster Regulations were posted as a legal ad in the Boston Globe. Health department contacted the Republic, the largest waste management company in the city. Health Department has not received any comments related to Dumpster Regulations. The next BOH meeting in April will be the time to vote. We will accommodate the residents to make comments before and during the April meeting.

Ms. Netter motioned to keep the public comments opened until the next meeting.

(Netter, Amirtharaj) (3,0)

Roll Call

Department Update

1. Lauren Olsen, Health Officer was promoted to Chief Environmental Officer.
2. Shuang Shen, Public Health Nurse participated in vaccinating the migrants and screening for lead poisoning.
3. In a couple of weeks, we will post another Health Officer position to replace Lauren Olsen.
4. Rodent complaints are coming into the Health Department and we are going to send out post cards with rodent prevention information to those neighborhoods.
5. Sharps Drop off event is 4/6/2024 at City Hall
6. The Hazardous Waste event starts monthly through November on 4/20/24.
7. We have tested noise complaints from Newton residents coming from a Pleasant Street facility. The DEP is also testing but the results are unremarkable.

Next Meeting

April 17, 2024

Adjourn:

Adjourned the meeting at 7:54 PM