



## Board of Health Meeting

Wednesday, September 18, 2024 at 7:00 PM  
REMOTE ONLY

### Agenda

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, the meeting and public hearing will be conducted with remote opportunities for participation. Remote participation and access methods include:

#### **ACCESS INFORMATION:**

- A. This meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 18, 2024 at 7:00PM. Remote Only
- B. The meeting will be televised through WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television): <http://vodwcatv.org/CablecastPublicSite/watch-now?site=3>
- C. Public may comment through email: [amyers@watertown-ma.gov](mailto:amyers@watertown-ma.gov)
- D. Please Visit the Board of Health Website here: <https://www.watertown-ma.gov/176/Board-of-Health>
- E. Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/83188312663>  
Meeting ID: 831 8831 2663

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- 1. Call to Order
  - 2. Acceptance of Minutes
    - A. Review of Draft Minutes of August 21, 2024
    - B. Review of Draft Minutes of August 28, 2024
  - 3. Public Comment
  - 4. Watertown Biosafety Committee Recommendation for Permit
    - A. Jana Care – 313 Pleasant Street 3W
  - 5. Vote on determination or restrictions of the dog
    - A. Name of dog is Kafka, Dark Brindle Pitbull Mix, 101 Morse Street #306
  - 6. Staffing and Department Updates
    - A. Introduction of new Health Officer
    - B. General Department Updates
  - 7. Items that could not be anticipated before meeting
  - 8. Adjournment

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**  
**REMOTE ONLY**  
**MINUTES**  
**Wednesday August 21, 2024 at 7:00 pm**

**PRESENT:** Richard Arnold, Chairperson, Kim Netter, Dr. Dominic Amirtharaj

Staff: Abbey Myers, Acting Director of Health, Maureen Foley, Clerk  
In attendance Michele Picard

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Arnold called the meeting to order 7:06 pm

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**Minutes**

Minutes were approved for July 17, 2024  
(Netter, Arnold) (2,0)  
Roll Call

**Public Comment**

No Public Comments

**Approval of Amendment applications for:**

Kymera Therapeutics – 500 North Beacon Street

Michele Picard, Director of Operations gave a short presentation of the company's activities and the additional vivarium. Dr. Amirtharaj asked if Kymera has plans to do recombinant work in the future with the animals. The answer is no. Dr. Amirtharaj questioned the processes of euthanizing the animals on site.

Ms. Netter made a motion to recommend approval of an amendment to approve Kymera.  
(Netter, Arnold) (3,0)  
Roll Call

**Department Update**

1. Health has a new Health Officer and she is started 8-12-2024.
2. The mosquitos tested by the state have detected West Nile Virus. This is considered a moderate level.
3. Health had a table to distribute information at the Farmers' Market on 8/21.
4. The nuisance dog owner at 870 Belmont Street did not appear in court on 7-12-2024. The judge issued an injunction. Health has starting to receiving complaints about the dog not on leash.
5. Health is in court with a long-standing hoarding case. The court assigned a receivership.
6. Health is involved with complaint-based inspections from housing to rodents.
7. Health inspected a restaurant with a history of violations. The establishment has hired a consultant to train employees.
8. Health has received the first shipment of flu vaccines.

9. State supplied a small amount of COVID test kits.

Dr. Amirtharaj questioned the range of complaints and the rodent issues. Ms. Netter referred to the nuisance dog case and the results. Dr. Amirtharaj asked if there was a rise in pertussis in Watertown.

**Next Meeting**

September 18, 2024

**Adjourn:**

Adjourned the meeting at 7:46 PM

(Arnold, Netter) (3,0)

Roll Call

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**  
**REMOTE ONLY**  
**DANGEROUS DOG HEARING**  
**MINUTES**  
**Wednesday August 28, 2024 at 7:00 pm**

**PRESENT:** Richard Arnold, Chairperson, Kim Netter,

Staff: Abbey Myers, Acting Director of Health, Maureen Foley, Clerk, Samantha Gatchell,  
Animal Control

In attendance Sara Goldman, Miriam Hoffman

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. Myers called the meeting to order 7:04 pm

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**Rules of the Hearing**

Ms. Myers set the rules for participants and the BOH to follow throughout the hearing.

**ACO Presentation**

Ms. Gatchell sworn to tell the truth. She gave a Power Point presentation stating the Massachusetts State Law regarding Dangerous Dog and reviewed the 3 incidents (12/23/23, 7/21/24, 7/24/24) when the dog, Kafka bit another dog and was quarantined within the year.

Ms. Netter inquired if all dogs involved in these 3 bite incidents received veterinary care. Ms. Netter wanted to know if the owner of the dog has initiated muzzle training.

Mr. Arnold asked about the process of a quarantine for an animal.

**Witness Presentation**

Ms. Goldman sworn to tell the truth. Ms. Goldman stated she was watching her friend's dog, Lily off leash in a common fenced in area behind her housing complex on 7/21/24. Kafka was released unleashed into the same fenced in common area. Ms. Goldman could not release Kafka from Lily. She ended up prying Kafka from Lily. Lily received a full veterinary work up.

Ms. Netter asked if the dog sitter for Kafka could handle this dog and was sitter help to you to separate the dogs.

**Dog Owners Presentation**

Ms. Hoffman sworn to tell the truth. Ms. Hoffman stated she had a dog sitter who took Kafka on the elevator in the building leashed. Another tenant brought their leashed dog on the elevator. Kafka bit the other dog. Another incident, Kafka was leashed coming out of the apartment when an unleashed dog came up to Kafka. Kafka bit the other dog.

Ms. Hoffman stated she is training Kafka to use a muzzle with a harness and a leash with multiple handles. Ms. Hoffman stated Kafka does not like other dogs. Ms. Hoffman stated she will need to use a dog sitter a few times this year.

Ms. Netter stated you have been in Boston for one year and adopted Kafka a year ago. Ms. Hoffman stated she was familiar with Kafka and his reactive temperament prior to the adoption. Ms. Netter asked if Kafka is neutered and if he is insured. Kafka has medical insurance.

Mr. Arnold asked about the weight of Kafka and he is 60 lbs. He asked how do the dog walkers control this 60 lbs dog?

**Hearing closed**

Hearing closed at 7:43pm

**Discuss Determination**

Ms. Gatchell stated the Massachusetts Law to deem a dog dangerous. BOH can put one or more restrictions on this dog.

Ms. Netter asked what the implications if this dog is deemed dangerous. Ms. Gatchell stated the dog is deemed dangerous for the life of the dog. If the dog is rehomed, then the owner must declare the dog is dangerous. If the owner moves to another municipality with the dog, the owner must contact the new municipality's ACO.

Mr. Arnold stated Kafka was protecting his territory and is not dangerous to humans. Mr. Arnold stated the muzzle is not comfortable and dogs can still be aggressive. The dog sitters must be screened to handle a reactive dog.

Ms. Netter stated there are ways for Ms. Hoffman to care for Kafka but at a higher cost.

Ms. Myers stated there will be no restrictions on this dog, if the dog is not deemed dangerous. Ms. Gatchell stated restrictions could be, Kafka must remain on a short leash at all times outside of his living space. Also, SNIFF SPOT is a program where people rent their fenced in yards for dogs to run off leash.

Ms. Netter stated she wants to make this decision in September about deeming Kafka dangerous.

This determination has been deferred to September 18, 2024 meeting.

Adjourned the meeting at 8:01 PM