

BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

**The Watertown BioSafety Committee has scheduled a REMOTE ZOOM meeting on
Thursday May 8, 2025 at 7:00 pm**

PRESENT: Brad Parsons, Mia Lieberman, Tim Maguire, Ralph Mele, Deb McEwan, Maureen Foley, Clerk,

In attendance: Corey Martin, Barrett Steinberg, Shawn Ayube, Daniel Tu

CALL TO ORDER: Brad Parsons called the meeting to order 7:03 pm

Minutes

Minutes approvals for April 3, 2025

All Approved (5,0)

Public Comment

No Public Comments

Permit Applications to Recommend to the BOH:

Zipcode Bio – 155 Arlington Street

Daniel Tu, COO, gave a short presentation of the lab's activities. Dr. Lieberman questioned the community member from the IBC.

Mr. Parsons made a motion to recommend approval of the application to the Board of Health without conditions:

(Parsons, Lieberman) (5,0)

Roll Call

Amendment Applications:

Parallel Biosystems – 200 Dexter Avenue #140 & #120

Shawn Ayube, Bio Safety Officer and Barrett Steinberg, Head of Bio Engineering, gave a short presentation of the lab's amendment to increase space and work. Dr. Maguire inquired how Parallel plans to deliver to CRISPR. Dr. McEwan asked if there are scientists presently who have experience with lenti work. Parallel stated they were in the process of hiring. Dr. Lieberman stated AAVs were not listed on the Biological Organisms submitted in April 2025.

This amendment will not go in front of the BOH.

Other Business:

Discussion for documentation and submission of a vivarium on the application process.

Dr. Lieberman stated Cambridge has stringent Animal Care Regulations. Watertown does not need to regulate to that extent. Being said, federal regulations state for private companies and not receiving federal funding are not required to have IACUC approvals. Dr. Lieberman and others on the committee stated they agreed IACUC approves the work and the vivarium and should be highly recommended for all Watertown animal care facilities. Dr. McEwan stated the BOH should be the governing body to require IACUC approvals and oversight. One member stated is approval needed?

In order to approve a vivarium presently in Watertown the following documents are required:

1. Detailed floorplan with notations for safety equipment, Eye wash, Safety Cabinets, etc.
2. Layout
3. Isoflurane, formalin use,
4. Air pressure differentials
5. Vivarium-specific disaster plan,
6. Ensure that occupational health programs include allergy/asthma screen,
7. Increased insurance
8. IACUC approval should be confirmed with the dept of health prior to the permit being issued

Discuss urine samples and biosafety classification.

Corey Martin, Spotlight Solutions, a lab in Watertown uses screened urine from patients. The question is this exempt category? Dr. Maguire asked if this lab is looking for proteins. Dr. Lieberman asked about the volume. Mr. Parsons asked what the urine is being screened for? There should be an occupational health contract. Dr. Lieberman stated this lab should submit a registration and come to June's meeting so we can inquire more about urine safety.

Dr. Lieberman stated she received a registration with human blood. She would like this lab to come to June's meeting also to answer the committee's questions.

Items that were not anticipated before publication of this agenda:

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be June 5, 2025

Adjourn

Adjourned at 7:59 PM