

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

MINUTES

The Watertown Board of Health has scheduled a REMOTE ZOOM meeting on
Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 7:00 pm

PRESENT: Dr. John Straus, Dr. Barbara Beck and Richard Arnold,

Staff: Larry Ramdin, Director of Public Health, Maureen Foley, Head Clerk,

In attendance: Jennifer Reilly, Kristina Courage, Laura Mark, Meghan O'Connell, Cynthia Mahoney, Kim Nguyen, Antonia Pugliese, Rita Colafella, Paige Swanson, Matt O'Brien, Carey Bhang, Derek Rick

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Straus called the meeting to order 7:04 pm, Roll Call

Minutes

Minutes were approved for September 15, 2021 meeting, with adjustments

Motions granted (Beck, Arnold) 3-0.

All in favor.

Roll Call

Public Comment

No Public Comment

Watertown Biosafety Committee (WBSC)

Larry Ramdin, WBSC Biosafety Committee (WBSC), indicated that the WBSC reviewed the application for a permit and approval of the application with conditions. WBSC Chair indicated all conditions have been met and recommended approval of **Vertex Cell & Genetic Therapies Application**. Laura Mark, Manager EHSS, gave a presentation and short synopsis of Vertex's activities.

Larry Ramdin, WBSC Biosafety Committee (WBSC), indicated that the WBSC reviewed the application for a permit and approval of the application without conditions and recommended approval of **Corner Therapeutics Permit Application**. Antonia Pugliese, Safety Partners gave a short synopsis of Corner's activities.

Larry Ramdin, WBSC Biosafety Committee (WBSC), indicated that the WBSC reviewed the application for a permit and approval of the application with conditions. WBSC Chair indicated all conditions have been met and recommended approval of **Dyno Therapeutics Permit Application**. Paige Swanson, Associate Director of Operation gave a short synopsis of Dyno's activities.

Larry Ramdin, WBSC Biosafety Committee (WBSC), indicated that the WBSC reviewed the application for a permit and approval of the application with conditions. WBSC Chair indicated all conditions have been met and recommended approval of **Treeline Biosciences Permit**

Application. Matt O'Brien, Lead in Operations gave a short synopsis of Treeline's activities. Carrie Bhang, Director gave additional information to the Board of Health.

Larry Ramdin, WBSC Biosafety Committee (WBSC), indicated that the WBSC reviewed the application for a permit and approval of the application with conditions. WBSC Chair indicated all conditions have been met and recommended approval of **Affini-T Therapeutics Permit Application**. Kim Nguyen, Chief Technical Officer gave a short synopsis of Affini-T's activities. Derek Rich addressed the safety issues within the organization.

Board of Health made a motion to accept the recommendations of five Biosafety Permits. Motions granted (Arnold, Beck) 3-0.
All in favor.
Roll Call

Covid Update

The indoor mask mandate was voted on August 23, 2021 and was instituted on August 25, 2021 due to the increases in COVID cases. At the time, Watertown was considered high risk community. Case counts are lower and Watertown is considered a moderate to low-risk community utilizing CDC reporting guidelines. Residents have taken precautions related to mask wearing.

Dr. Beck inquired about the vaccine rate at various age groups. The per capita rates are

12-15 years = 64 %, 16-19 years = 68 %, 20-29 years = 70 %, 30-49 years >95 %.
50-64 = 84% 65-74 = 88% 75+ = 91%

With an average of 78 % vaccinated population and 84 % with at least one dose

WPS is guided by different rules in terms of mask wearing and COVID testing.

Staffing and Department Update

The department is without two Health Officers. The jobs are posted on all the public health organization sites. Larry Ramdin stated he was approved for a temporary position of 19 hours per week. Carly Foster completed her ACO training.

Other Business

There have been several flu clinics and 211 vaccines have been administered. Wil Vandinter has been administering vaccines to homebound residents also.

Ms. Manoogian is not on this month's agenda, a discussion will be on next month's agenda.

Since this is Dr. Staus last Board of Health meeting, the board and Larry Ramdin thanked him for his service to the board and the community.

Next Meeting

Meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, November 17, 2021

Dr. Straus adjourned the meeting at 8:08 pm

