

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

April 17, 2019

Watertown Administration Building, Third Floor Conference Room

PRESENT: Dr. John Straus, Chairperson Dr. Barbara Beck, Secretary; Richard Arnold, Board Member.

Staff: Larry Ramdin, Director of Public Health, Kristel Bennett, Chief Environmental Health Officer

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Straus called the meeting to order 7:05 pm

Minutes: Minutes of the March 20, 2019 meeting were approved with corrections (Beck, Arnold 2nd) 3-0.

Public Comment:

Elodia Thomas, Watertown resident informed the Board that no notify me notice was sent out about the Board meeting, also there has been no meeting minutes posted on the website since September. And she found it bizarre that the public is not allowed to ask questions to the Board during the meeting.

Larry Ramdin had advised the Board that Ms. Thomas had contacted the Health Department earlier in the day and was advised that her complaint was being addressed.

Ernesta Krackiewicz, Watertown resident and member of the Watertown faces Climate Change Group, read a letter to the Board, and expressed her thanks to the Board for the natural gas presentation from last meeting.

Heather McManus, Watertown resident informed the Board that her comments from the discussion about the Biotechnology Regulation were not included in the uploaded website contents; she presented her comments to the board for the record.

Review and Discussion of Natural Gas Letter of Support Request

Dr. Beck indicated she had a conflict as her company had worked on an issue similar to this in another state and her company may participate in future in similar reviews in Massachusetts and recused herself from review and discussion. The Board reviewed the draft natural gas letter of support request that Ms. Krackiewicz presented. The Board discussed the letter. Mr. Arnold motioned to endorse a letter to the governor for use of natural gas and its impact on climate change. Seconded, Dr. Straus. Vote 2-0.

Review of Public Comments and editing Draft Biotechnology regulation

The Board reviewed the public comments and the draft biotechnology regulation. The Board discussed the draft. Dr. Beck motioned to continue the discussion of the rDNA regulation to the next meeting. Seconded, Mr. Arnold. Vote 3-0. Mr. Ramdin indicated that he will provide the Board with copies of the draft regulation that has the comments incorporated on it.

Department Update

Mr. Ramdin provided an update to the Board about some of the Health Department programs. Mr. Ramdin is working on updating the Community Emergency Management Plan with both the Fire Chief and the Police Chief. He indicated that the Farmer's Market is moving to Staltonshall Park and will be held on the same day as the concert series. He had developed a list of conditions for developments which includes treatment of pest control within ¼ mile of the development. He was pleased to report all food establishment inspections are up to date.

Meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m. (Motion **Dr. Beck, second, Richard Arnold 3-0**)

Respectfully submitted: Larry Ramdin, Director of Public Health

Approved: May 15, 2019