

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

MINUTES

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

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

Staff: Larry Ramdin, Director of Public Health, Wil Van Dinter, Public Health Nurse, Maureen Foley, Head Clerk

In attendance Lisa Capoccia, Resident, Heather McManus, BioSafety Committee, Amy Plovnick, Bike Ped Committee, Rob Derosier, Triumvirate Environmental

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

Minutes

Minutes were approved for December 16, 2020 meeting,

Motions granted (Beck, Straus) 2-0.

All in favor.

Public Comment

Amy Plovnick, Bike Ped Committee stated both Bike Ped and Board of Health committees can coordinate and communicate with each other for vaccine and other upcoming health events.

Dr. Straus recommended for Ms. Plovnick to reach out to the Wellness coordinator, Stephanie Venizelos also.

Tectonic Therapeutic

Heather McManus, BioSafety Committee recommended permitting Tectonic after they meet the additional requirements. Dr. McManus stated those requirements were met.

Motions granted (Beck, Arnold) 3-0.

All in favor.

Biosafety Applications

Rob Derosier, Triumvirate Environmental stated he was impressed with the knowledge and experience the BioSafety Committee brought to the process.

There are 40 labs that have to comply with the new safety protocols by July 1, 2021.

COVID -19 Update

Watertown has current to date 765 cases, total of 1784 cases, 1543 have recovered and 30 fatalities.

The cause of the increase in activity with COVID is due to family spread, sporting activities and subset of Watertown residents. Watertown provided testing at the Commander's Mansion, cases increased. The Broad Institute is conducting those tests for residents only.

Health Department has a robust social media presence regarding COVID, vaccine qualifications, protocols and state recommendations.

COVID 19 Vaccines

Watertown Health conducted two COVID vaccine clinics (1/14 & 1/15/21). The clinics inoculated 183 first responders and healthcare workers.

The client needs to register online, the vaccinator screens the client, the client is vaccinated and the client remains in a waiting area for signs of adverse reactions for 15 minutes. The process is unlike the flu vaccine. Watertown Health has not received state guidance on the vaccines outside of health care workers and first responders either inoculations or distributions.

Response from the Public

Lisa Capoccia, a resident stressed concerns related to Watertown employees not wearing masks, requested COVID data by age and changes regarding cases over time. She wanted to know how the department was planning for the new strains and our prevention measures. She stated the Town Council does not have a standing COVID item at the hearings.

Staffing and Department Update

Karen O'Reilly, ACO left her position for another community on January 20, 2021.

Next Meeting

Scheduled for Wednesday February 17, 2021

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. (Motion Beck, seconded by Straus 3-0)

Respectfully submitted: Larry Ramdin, Director of Public Health