

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

MINUTES

**The Watertown Board of Health has scheduled a REMOTE ZOOM meeting on
Wednesday July 15, 2020 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
Maureen Foley, Head Clerk

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

Minutes

Minutes were approved for April 15, 2020 and May 20, 2020 hearings with corrections. Motions granted (Straus, Arnold 2nd) 2-0.

Public Comment

No public comments.

COVID 19 Status

Confirmed cases (426), Fatalities (23), Recovered (419) Active (7)

We have been experiencing challenges with tracing collaborative for COVID 19 due to CTC and State systems have communication problems. Wil VanDinter is doing the COVID 19 tracing for Watertown, future tracing will depend on the relationship between the state and Partners In Health plus additional funding.

Of the 23 fatalities, approximately 80% are from a health facility settings or patients with co-morbidities.

Rescind the Plastic Bag Order

Reusable bags can now be used in retail. Use of plastic rule rescinded

COVID 19 Guidance, Compliance and Education

Interns and Deanna Mazina are creating and maintaining all social media. Face covering compliance is declining in the outdoor settings due to the summer heat. There are also some who choose to ignore the rules and place themselves and others at risk. Many businesses have adopted a "No Mask No Service" policy.

Farmers Market Update

Farmers Market is going well, the attendance is very good and they are making upgrades to accommodate more attendance and social distancing.

Police Social Workers and Mental Health

WPD has been given budget approval to hire an additional Social Worker to provide support services to respond to emergencies and assist with follow-up. WPD requested the position at Budget Hearings. These social workers respond to mental health, opioids and other issues without the police tactics. Hoarding issues are mitigated with the use of the task force. We work with the homeowners and Springwell.

Biotechnology Regulation Update

The budget item has been added \$10,000.00 to hire a consultant. New labs must adhere to the new regulations immediately. Existing labs have one year to comply.

Department Update

In final interviews for Health Officer, recommendations will be submitted to the Town Manager in order to hire. The person will be available two weeks after receiving her letter.

Arsenal Yards

Restaurants just opened Ben & Jerry's, City Works, Majestic Theater. Projects starting to be built; hotel, life science and residential.

Next Meeting

Scheduled for August 19, 2020

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m. (Motion Dr. Straus, seconded by Mr. Arnold 3-0)

Respectfully submitted: Larry Ramdin, Director of Public Health