

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

MINUTES

The Watertown Board of Health has scheduled a REMOTE ZOOM meeting on
Wednesday July 21, 2021 at 7:00 pm

PRESENT: Dr. Barbara Beck and Richard Arnold,

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

In attendance: Mark Bittenger, Erika Whyte, Elizabeth Graham, Jonathan Wilde, Tyler Brown, Shilpi Arora, Meghan Rego, Kathea Lynch, Corey Martin, Josh Foster, Laura Kurman, Maysa Ramos, Sophia Suarez-Friedman

CALL TO ORDER: Richard Arnold called the meeting to order 7:03 pm

Minutes

Minutes were approved for June 9, 2021 meeting,
Motions granted (Beck, Arnold) 2-0.
All in favor.

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 **Sai Life Sciences Permit Application**. Mark Bittenger, Vice President and Global Head of Biology gave a short synopsis of Sai Life's activities.

Larry Ramdin, WBSC Biosafety Committee, 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 **Addgene Permit Application**. Meghan Rego, Scientist gave a short synopsis of Addgene's activities.

Larry Ramdin, WBSC Biosafety Committee, 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 **Twenty-Eight Seven Therapeutics, Inc Permit Application**.

Larry Ramdin, WBSC Biosafety Committee, 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 **Kymera Therapeutics Permit Application**. Erika Whyte gave a short synopsis of Kymera's activities.

Larry Ramdin, WBSC Biosafety Committee, 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 **KeyBio Systems LLC Permit Application**. Jonathan Wilde, BioSafety Officer gave a short synopsis of KeyBio's activities.

Larry Ramdin, WBSC Biosafety Committee, 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 **Exo Therapeutics Permit Application**. Silpi Arora, Vice President, Discovery & Translational Biology gave a short synopsis of Exo's activities.

Board of Health made a motion to accept the recommendations of five (6) Biosafety Permits. Motions granted (Beck, Arnold) 3-0.
All in favor.

Covid Update

The cases are rising even with the vaccinated vaccine also. The Delta variant is becoming more prevalent especially due to the Provincetown cluster. Dr. Beck states severe illnesses after increases in infections.

Staffing and Department Update

We have interviewed (5) applicants for Chief Environmental Health Officer. The department is in the process of offering the position to a candidate.

Larry stated he is holding a thank you event for all the nurses, master's students and contract tracers who volunteered with the clinics and other duties through the pandemic.

Larry stated he is hiring a consultant, external of the committee to review registration and permit applications for the WBSC to help reduce their work load.

Update from Town SSRS-Wayside

Laura Kurman, Director of Wayside Human Services stated there are gaps in resources to residents who need our help. The needs of residents have catapulted during COVID. Sophia Suarez-Friedman stated she provides services to 18 to 59 years old to provide rental assistance, housing, food stamps, case management, mental health and substance issues. The referrals come from police, health, library, planning, WPS and housing. There are various grants to provide services; Marshall Home Fund, Helen Robertson Wright. Wayside navigates the grant system for clients.

Next Meeting

Meeting was not scheduled for Wednesday August 18, 2021

Meeting abruptly ended due to Watertown Cable Access at 8:06 pm