

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

MINUTES

**The Watertown Board of Health has scheduled a REMOTE ZOOM meeting on
Wednesday May 18, 2022 at 7:00 pm**

PRESENT: Dr. Barbara Beck and Richard Arnold,

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

In attendance: Corey Martin, Councilor Palomba, Dan Hogan, Emily Corse, Jackie Van Leeuwen, Nicole Billings, Nick Moses, Eli Kraus

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Beck called the meeting to order 7:09 pm, Roll Call

Minutes

Minutes were approved for April 20, 2022 meeting,

Motions granted (Arnold, Beck) 2-0.

All in favor.

Roll Call

Public Comment

Jackie Van Leeuwen of 32 Whites Ave reminded the Board about her comments in January of 2022 related to the attrition rate in the Watertown Health Department. She asked the Board of Health to address the issue. There were comments made in the manager search surveys. Now that Dr. Heather McManus has left the WBSC, this is proof of another person leaving.

Mr. Arnold asked the Zoom participants to show themselves when speaking.

Recognition Dr. Heather Rose McManus for contributions to Biosafety in Watertown

Dr. McManus was not in attendance due to a personal issue. Dr. Beck stated Dr. McManus was instrumental in determining and executing the rules and regulations for Biotechnology in Watertown. Dr. Beck read a memo from Dr. McManus. Dr. McManus thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve the residents of Watertown in this capacity at the designee Chair of the Watertown BioSafety Committee. Mr. Arnold stated Dr. McManus contributed and had a huge responsibility to Watertown BioSafety.

Biosafety Permits

DayZero Diagnostics, Inc. – 200 Dexter Avenue #161

Nick Moses, Senior Design Engineer gave a short presentation of the company's activities. Dr. Beck questioned if the process is antigen testing. Mr. Moses stated DayZero is using an extraction method. Mr. Arnold asked the turn around time to determine the bug in the human body, since 6 hours can cause sepsis.

Larkspur Biosciences, Inc. – 480 Arsenal Way #125

Emily Corse, SVP, Biology gave a short presentation of the company's activities. Dr. Beck asked if Larkspur is conducting basic lab work. Mr. Arnold inquired about the use of animals.

Motion granted to approve two applications

(Arnold, Beck) 2-0.

All in favor.

Roll Call

Introduction Dr. Timothy Maguire WBSC

Dr. Timothy Maguire did not appear in this meeting.

COVID Related Matters

Mr. Ramdin stated there is an uptick in COVID infections but most do not require hospitalizations.

Shuang Shen, Public Health Nurse gave a Power Point Presentation of the increasing COVID statistics since February 2022. Week ending 5/9, there were 152 new cases and 201 active cases. The majority of infections are in the 18-49 age group.

The Health Department had two COVID Booster Clinics, the first had 40 participants and the second had 25. Health is planning a third clinic in June.

Watertown had a Sharps Collection Clinic on April 30th. Health Department is participating in a Health and Wellness Event at the ACEC on Saturday, May 21st.

Staffing and Department Updates

Dr. Dominic Amirtharaj will join the Board of Health once he appears in front of the City Council. Health officers are addressing complaints and inspecting seasonal pools. Health Department received \$62000.00 in covid grant money but it needs to be used in the next 6 weeks.

Items that could not be anticipated before the meeting

Mr. Arnold stated South America, Africa and Australia COVID cases are trending up. This is usually is a precursor to what the U.S. will experience in the fall.

Adjourn:

Adjourned the meeting at 8:09 PM

(Beck,Arnold)2-0