

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

MINUTES

**The Watertown Board of Health has scheduled a REMOTE ZOOM meeting on
Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 7:00 pm**

PRESENT: Dr. Barbara Beck and Richard Arnold,

Staff: Larry Ramdin, Director of Public Health, Maureen Foley, Head Clerk, Lauren Olsen, Health Officer.

In attendance: Pam Hogan, Tom Civitenga, James Gordon, Beth McAndrew, Jeanne Ostroff, Earl Smith, Angie Kounelis, Matthew O'Brien, Elaine Mello, Meghan O'Connor, David Stoke, Joan McLaughlin, Rachel Kay, Jackie Airasian, David Cain, Charlie Breitrose, James Sennette, Individuals with last names not posted, Jennen, Colleen, Elva, Scott

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Beck called the meeting to order 7:03 pm, Roll Call

Minutes

Minutes were approved for January 19, 2022 meeting,

Motions granted (Beck, Arnold) 2-0.

All in favor.

Roll Call

Public Comment

Elva, address unknown, requesting Watertown keep the face covering mandate. Elva stated his elderly neighbors are concerned for their safety.

Tom Civitenga, 98 Oak Street Natick had comments regarding the gyms. Due to the decline in positivity, he would like the ban removed. (Middlesex County is at 2.88%, Watertown is at 2.42%)

Dr. Beck stated based on data, Watertown should eliminate the face covering mandate.

Individuals have a right to wear masks based on personal health and living situations.

Mr. Ramdin showed a graph indicating the fall in cases over time. Mr. Arnold stated the mandate should be rescinded as soon as possible. Dr. Beck stated this excludes Federal and State requirements such as public transportation and medical facilities. Dr. Beck publicly read the order to rescind the mask mandate to begin at 12:01 February 24, 2022.

Motions granted (Beck, Arnold) 2-0.

All in favor.

Roll Call

Appoints a Health Officer

BOH appoints Lauren Olsen as a Health Inspector

(Beck, Arnold) 2-0.

All in favor.

Roll Call

Staffing and Department Updates

Mr. Ramdin stated the new Public Health Nurse, Shuang Shen will start on March 8, 2022. She will appear at next month's meeting.

Items that could not be anticipated before the meeting

Many new labs are coming to Watertown.

Mr. Arnold inquired about the status of a third member of the Board of Health. Mr. Ramdin stated there are two applicants.

Adjourn:

Dr. Beck adjourned the meeting at 7:38 PM