

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

MINUTES

**The Watertown Board of Health has scheduled a REMOTE ZOOM meeting on
Monday, December 20, 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: Leanne Hammond, Coleman Keuchkarian, Juliette Keuchkarian, Caroline Bays, Michael Albano, Angeline Kounelis, Susan Flint, Jacky Van Leuwon, David Cain, Mara Acel-Green, Rotem Aloni, Tara Conklin, Niranjana Nagarajan, Jason Park, Corey Martin, Ellen Was, Roman Bogorad, Meghan O'Connell, Mailin Van Hooser

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Beck called the meeting to order 7:02 pm, Roll Call

Minutes

Minutes were approved for October 20, 2021 meeting, with adjustments

Motions granted (Arnold, Beck) 2-0.

All in favor.

Roll Call

Public Comment

Meghan O'Connell prefers to keep the mask policy status quo and let the local businesses make their own policy. Mara Acel-Green stated she wants a mask mandate. A business owner at 158 Belmont Street opposes the mask mandate, she wants the businesses to determine their own policy. David Cain stated there is no medical need to have masking or vaccines for COVID 19. Mr. Cain referenced the Hong Kong flu of 1968.

Regional Tobacco Control Agent

Mr. Ramdin introduced Rotem Aloni to the Board of Health to be appointed as Tobacco Control and Inspections on behalf of the City of Watertown.

Board of Health made a motion to accept the appointment of Tobacco Control and Inspection Officer.

Motions granted (Beck, Arnold) 2-0.

All in favor.

Roll Call

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 without conditions and recommended approval of **Inzen Therapeutics's Application**. Jason Park, Acting COO gave a presentation and short synopsis of Inzen's activities.

Larry Ramdin, WBSC Biosafety Committee (WBSC), indicated that the WBSC reviewed the application for a permit and approval of the application without conditions and recommended approval of **LIV Process, Inc. Permit Application**.

Larry Ramdin, WBSC Biosafety Committee (WBSC), indicated that the WBSC reviewed the application for a permit and approval of the application without conditions and recommended approval of **Souffle Therapeutics Permit Application**. Roman Bogorad, Vice President of Discovery gave a short synopsis of Souffle's activities.

Larry Ramdin, WBSC Biosafety Committee (WBSC), indicated that the WBSC reviewed the application for a permit and approval of the application without conditions and recommended approval of **Strand Therapeutics, Inc. Permit Application**.

Board of Health made a motion to accept the recommendations of four Biosafety Permits.

Motions granted (Beck, Arnold) 2-0.

All in favor.

Roll Call

Covid Update

Mr. Ramdin state the cases for COVID are increasing in the City of Watertown and Middlesex County. Watertown's cases have increased from 54 on November 3rd to 163 on December 15th. Testing has increased also from 5,376 on November 3rd to 6,237 on December 15th. Dr, Beck stated hospitalizations have increased three-fold. Dr. Beck stated it is appropriate to reinstate mask mandate as a community and the Public Health. Mr. Ramdin prepared a mask mandate document that was read by Dr. Beck in the meeting.

Board of Health made a motion to accept the Mask Mandate to go into effect as of December 22, 2021, at 12:01 AM.

Motions granted (Beck, Arnold) 2-0.

All in favor.

Roll Call

Staffing and Department Update

Dr. Beck inquired about the status of new hires in the department. A new health officer will be coming on board January 3, 2022. Other new department personnel are in the final stages of approvals.

Wil Van dinter, Public health Nurse has transferred to the WPS. He was a tremendous asset during COVID.

Next Meeting

Meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, January 19, 2022

Motion to Ajourn the meeting at 7:51 pm

Motions granted (Beck, Arnold) 2-0.

All in favor.

Roll Call