

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

MINUTES

**The Watertown Board of Health has scheduled a REMOTE ZOOM meeting on
Wednesday July 20, 2022 at 7:00 pm**

PRESENT: Dr. Barbara Beck, Richard Arnold and Dominic Amirtharaj

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

In attendance: Jackie Van Leeuwen, Victoria Weichel, Dan Hogan, Sheila Krishnan, Lisa Capaccia, Ellen Menounous, Chuck Dickinson

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Beck called the meeting to order 7:07 pm, Roll Call

Minutes

Minutes were approved for June 15, 2022 meeting,

Motions granted (Arnold, Amirtharaj) 3-0.

All in favor.

Roll Call

Public Comment

No public Comments

Introduction of the new Board of Health member

Dr. Amirtharaj gave a short review of his background and was thrilled to be appointed. He looks forward to serving as a member of the Board of Health.

COVID Related Matters

Mr. Ramdin stated there are 47 COVID cases currently. Watertown is distributing test kits from DPH to the public in boxes distributed in public buildings for pick up.

The Health Department had a COVID Booster Clinic on Tuesday, July 19th for over 10 shots.

Dr. Amirtharaj stated it is difficult to have vaccines that match the variants due to changes in the virus.

Discussion with WBSC related to permitting

Brad Parsons, member of WBSC participated in the discussion. Bioinnovation Labs has a different model as an incubator space. Mr. Arnold stated he was concerned that the tenants of Bioinnovation will not be reviewed and monitored by WBSC. The landlord, Bioinnovation is holding the BioSafety Permit. Mr. Parson stated WBSC will receive the tenants' protocols for work in the labs. Bioinnovation is unique because it has permits from both the DEP and DPH. WBSC has the ability to remove a permit or registration if an individual lab is not maintaining protocols.

Staffing and Department Updates

The city will be receiving Opiate Settlement money. Mr. Ramdin is recommending the city hire an outreach employee to be proactive in the community.

There is a vacant health officer position.

Items that could not be anticipated before the meeting

The August 17, 2022 meeting will be canceled and any approvals for Biosafety Permits will be approved by Larry Ramdin.

Motions granted (Arnold, Amirtharaj) 3-0.

All in favor.

Roll Call

Adjourn:

Adjourned the meeting at 8:20 PM