

BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

The Watertown BioSafety Committee has scheduled a REMOTE ZOOM meeting on Thursday, February 2, 2023 at 7:00 pm

PRESENT: Brad Parsons, Chairman, Deborah McEwan, Ralph Mele, Mia Lieberman, Maureen Foley, Clerk

In attendance: Linda Scott, Christine Cameron, Jim Crawford, John Athanasopoulos, Derek Rich, Corey Martin, Anthony Moya, KinNguyen, Xingyue He, Adam Williams, Rhamy Zeid, Suvi Aivio, Andrew Thomas, Michelle Haven

CALL TO ORDER: Brad Parsons called the meeting to order 7:09 pm

Minutes

Minutes approvals for January 5, 2023

(Mele, Lieberman) (4,0)

Roll Call

Public Comment

No Public Comment

Permits:

Edge Animal Health – 155 Arlington Street

Suvi Aivio, Biosafety Officer, gave a short presentation of the company's activities. She stated the blood, canine pathogens and fibroblasts come from a commercial source. Dr. Lieberman questioned the commercially purchased canine skin biosystems. Dr. McEwan stated if Animal Health obtains samples from veterinarians or pets then you must get a permit from IACUC and would need to submit an amendment to the WBSC. Also Dr. McEwan stated you would need to obtain permissions from the owners to conduct experiments on their pets' tissues. Dr. McEwan asked what is the screening process with vet samples? Animal Health must consult Occupational Health on the ways to handle vet samples. Mr. Mele questioned the handling of waste products at this facility. Dr. Lieberman questioned the decontamination of murine cell function. Mr. Parsons asked the number of employees at this facility; the answer was 9. Mr. Parsons stated the IBC should have 5 members. Animal Health should have another IBC meeting within 3 months with 5 members attending.

A motion was made to recommend approval of the application to the Board of Health with conditions: If the Board of Health approves the permit, a condition will be stated an IBC meeting with five members present take place before March 31, 2023. The minutes must be submitted to the WBSC.

(Liebermann, Mele)

Roll Call (4,0)

Nexo Therapeutics – 65 Grove Street

Rhamy Zeid, Founder, gave a short presentation of the company's activities. Mr. Mele stated the Chemical Hygiene plan was not signed. Dr. McEwan questioned lentivirus precautions and if the employees have sufficient experience. She questioned the training for the use of lentivirus. Dr. McEwan stated Nexo was in the facility since 2022, but lab work was not done. Mr. Parsons questioned the layout and access to another suite.

A motion was made to recommend approval of the application to the Board of Health without conditions:

(Parsons, McEwan)

Roll Call (4,0)

Affini-T Therapeutics – 100 Forge Road 8th Floor

Kim Nguyen, CTO, gave a short presentation of the company's activities. Affini T moved from 343 Arsenal Street to 100 Forge Road. There is a planned staged occupancy to 40,000 SF. Dr. Lieberman questioned the main collection and flammable cabinet area on floor 1. Mr. Parsons questioned the amount of hazardous waste produced since Affini T is in a larger facility.

A motion was made to recommend approval of the application to the Board of Health without conditions:

(Parsons, Mele)

Roll Call (4,0)

Additional Business

This discussion is related to Regulations vs. Policy. Policy changes can be determined by WBSC.

Regulation changes must be approved by BOH. WBSC determined there must be 5 members attend an IBC meeting regardless of the size of the lab. With 5 members, Dr. McEwan states the smaller labs have greater input from their committee members.

WBSC stated if a lab starts with a BSL 1-low risk Regulation and then expands to a Permit – high risk, the lab must obtain both. This is in the regulations.

There is a lab that renewed for a suite within a large lab building. They expanded to a suite on another floor.

There was not an IBC meeting prior to expansion. Dr. Lieberman stated an amendment is required. Mr.

Parsons requested this lab explain how and what materials are transported between floors.

Items that were not anticipated before publication of agenda

WBSC requested Mr. Ramdin contact the 3 companies that have yet to renew.

Next Meeting

The March 2, 2023 is a definite meeting.

The April meeting could be in person. It will have to be April 13, 2023

Adjourn

Adjourned at 8:44 PM