

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

MINUTES

**The Watertown Board of Health has scheduled a REMOTE ZOOM meeting on
Wednesday February 15, 2023 at 7:00 pm**

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

Staff: Abbey Myers, Chief Environmental Officer, Maureen Foley, Head Clerk

In attendance: Jacky VanLeeuwen, Sophia Suarez-Friedman, Suvi Aivio, Rhamy Zeid, John Athanasopoulos

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Beck called the meeting to order 7:06 pm

Minutes

Minutes were approved for January 18, 2023 meeting,

Motions granted (Arnold, Amirtharaj) 3-0.

All in favor.

Roll Call

Public Comment

Ms. VanLeeuwen asked what the board intends to discuss the use of ARPA funds. Ms. Myers responded, ARPA funds are discussed at the municipal level.

Organization of the Board of Health

The board nominated Dr. Beck as Chairperson.

Motions granted (Amirtharaj, Arnold) 3-0.

All in favor.

Roll Call

Social Services Resource Specialist Annual Report

Ms. Suarez-Friedman spoke about how residents are referred to Wayside. There is usually more than one need per the household. There are 32000 people on the public housing wait list.

WBSC Permitting Recommendations

Edge Animal Health – 155 Arlington Street

Suvi Aivio, Head of Cell Therapy gave a short presentation of the company's activities.

Dr. Amirtharaj questioned the direct animal experiment. Mr. Arnold questioned the stage and status Edge's experiments. Mr Arnold asked if animals are used in the lab. Other Edge Health labs have vivarium in other states.

Nexo Therapeutics – 65 Grove Street

Rhamy Zeid, Vice President of Biology gave a short presentation of the company's activities. Dr. Beck questioned the molecules used in Nexo's research.

Motions granted (Arnold, Amirtharaj) 3-0.

All in favor.

Roll Call

WBSC was permitted, presentation to Board of Health

**Affini T Therapeutics notification transfer to a new location from
343 Arsenal Street to 100 Forge Road. No vote required Advisory Only**

Tobacco regulations update

The regulations were tabled.

Motions granted (Amirtharaj, Arnold) 3-0.

All in favor.

Roll Call

COVID Related Matters

Ms. Myers stated COVID cases are stable. The recent delivery was 21000 tests. These test kits were distributed and continue to be distributed to Roche Bros., Library, City Clerk, Treasurer.

Staffing and Department Updates

Health Department hired a per diem part-time restaurant inspector who is available on weekends.

The conditional offer has been made to an ACO and she accepted.

There will be a Sharps Collection Day on 4/1/2023.

Items that could not be anticipated before the meeting

Ms. Myers gave a short report on the Hoarding Task Force. Health Department is transitioning to Open Gov permit software.

Adjourn:

Adjourned the meeting at 8:11 PM