

BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

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

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

In attendance: Paul Nederhoed, Cameron Blair, Stephanie Balestra, Jack Jezard, Andrew Seeber, Julie Gibson, Ashley Boyd, Ali McCully, John Finn, Scott Loughhead, Kathi Breen, Mohammed Hannan, Assaf Rotem, Joseph Lattari, Olivia Moody, Audrey Molina, Noah King, Linda Epstein, David Dobrosky

CALL TO ORDER: Brad Parsons called the meeting to order 7:05 pm

Minutes

Minutes approvals for February 2, 2023

(Parsons, McEwan) (5,0)

Roll Call

Public Comment

No Public Comment

Permits:

Tome Biosciences – 100 Talcott Avenue

Paul Nederhoed, Director of R&D, gave a short presentation of the company's activities. He spoke about the vivarium safety, exposure, lighting, HEPA filtering and animal welfare. Dr. Nederhoed spoke to the employee training and disaster plan. Dr. Lieberman questioned the occupational screening of the employee's allergies as part of the training process. Dr. Lieberman requested an amendment with the safety protocols related to Herpes B, Isoflurane, Lentivirus. Dr. Lieberman asked about the use of PPE. Dr. Maguire stated the disaster plan was well done. Mr. Parsons questioned the CO2 storage.

A motion was made to recommend approval of the application to the Board of Health with conditions:

Updated Occupational Health with exposure to Herpes B, Isoflurane, Lentivirus.

(Liebermann, Parsons) (5,0)

Roll Call

Transition Bio, Inc. – 100 Talcott Avenue

Andrew Seeber, Director of Cell Assays, gave a short presentation of the company's activities. Mr. Mele stated the Chemical Hygiene plan was not signed. Dr. Maguire Stated this is exciting technology and complete application. Dr. Maguire questioned the maximum hazardous waste produced. Dr. McEwan stated the application was comprehensive. Dr. Seeber stated the chemical library is located in the UK and delivered to Watertown.

A motion was made to recommend approval of the application to the Board of Health conditions:

Updated page 77.

(Parsons, Maguire) (5,0)

Roll Call

Pivot Bio, Inc. – 155 Arlington Street

Ali McCully, Scientist gave a short presentation of the company's activities. Mr. Parsons stated Pivot has a USDA P526 permit. That is the first permit in Watertown. Dr. Maguire questioned soil samples and cell culturing. Mr. Mele questioned the key card entry to the lab space. Dr. Lieberman questioned *Pseudomonas* bacteria in the lab space.

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

(McEwan, Lieberman) (5,0)

Roll Call

C4 Therapeutics – 490 Arsenal Way #120 & #200

Ashley Boyd, Scientist, gave a short presentation of the company's activities. C4 added another suite #120 at 490 Arsenal Way. Noah King, Lab Operations Management stated Suite 120 was on the same floor from Suite 200. Suite 120 will be bio labs and 200 will be chemical labs. Dr. McEwan stated the IBC does not have a plan. Mr. Mele stated the contacts changed a great deal on the Hazardous Waste permit and EAP. Once there is a change of contacts, the lab has 14 days to inform fire and the other pertinent departments. There is no vote to this amendment.

SQZ Biotechnologies – 200 Arsenal Yards Blvd #210

Stephanie Balestra, Head of VIVO Transition and Compliance gave a short presentation of the company's activities. Dr. Lieberman stated there was an IBC meeting January 19, 2023. There no meetings during 2022. It is difficult to approve lab protocols when there is no meetings and safety guidance. Dr. Balestra stated work has decreased and required to adjust to the markets. Dr. Lieberman questioned what science is SQZ doing and what are the named protocols that the IBC approved. What agents are being used? Dr. Balestra stated the vivarium has been dismantled and decommissioned in November-December 2022. Dr. Lieberman stated SQZ should not be doing work that has not been approved by the IBC because the IBC ensures the safety of the employees and the community. Mr. Parsons stated more information is required.

A motion was made to recommend approval of the application to the Board of Health with conditions:

- The SQZ IBC must internally meet, review, deliberate, and provide documented quorum approval in meeting minutes on the IBC protocol encompassing current work done on-site.
- The protocol will cover (in laypersons terms) the following information:
 - Project classification aligned with the *NIH Guidelines, 2019*
 - Project goals, technical description of Research Experiments, source of nucleic acids, nature of the nucleic acid segment inserted, the scale of work, Biosafety Containment Level, and other safety considerations (such as the use of human-sourced materials or BSL2 agents). Special Practices for any agents for which safety considerations fall outside the scope of our BSM/ECP, or Chemical Hygiene Plan, Study Personnel trained and approved to work with any rDNA, including years of experience.
- Provide WBSC with updated contact information with Chemical Hygiene and Emergency Action Plan.
- SQZ is required to submit to the WBSC our meeting minutes from this meeting, including the approval decision related to the current IBC Protocols, **before March 15, 2020**, for our permit to be reviewed at the next Watertown Board of Health Meeting

(Parsons, Lieberman) (5,0)

Roll Call

Additional Business

Dr. Lieberman informed WBSC there is a company that is expanding to a larger space. WBSC stated that lab

can be approved administratively if the work has not expanded also. A lab at an incubator space is moving to a renovation.

Items that were not anticipated before publication of agenda

What is the status of lab inspections?

Tabled to next month.

Next Meeting

The April 13, 2023 is a definite meeting.

The April meeting could be in person.

Adjourn

Adjourned at 9:15 PM