

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

MINUTES

**The Watertown Board of Health has scheduled a REMOTE ZOOM meeting on
Thursday March 16, 2023 at 7:00 pm**

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

Staff: Larry Ramdin, Director of Health, Samantha Gatchell, ACO, Maureen Foley, Head Clerk
In attendance: Paul Lane, Paul Nederhoed, Andrew Seeber, Mohammed Hannan, Cameron Blair,
Julia Gibson, Corey Martin, Joseph Lattari, Stephanie Westcott, Corey Lyne, Olivia Moody, Min
Hyung Ryu, John Finn, Liz Cremons, Scott Lougherhead, Kathi Breen

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Beck called the meeting to order 7:03 pm

The City Manager gave permission for the Board of Health to conduct tonight's meeting

Minutes

Minutes were approved for February 15, 2023 meeting,

Motions granted (Amirtharaj, Arnold) 3-0.

All in favor.

Roll Call

Public Comment

No Public Comments

WBSC Permitting Recommendations

Transition Bio, Inc. – 100 Talcott Avenue

Andrew Seeber gave a short presentation of the company's activities.

Mr. Arnold inquired about in-vivo vs. in-vitro experiments.

Pivot Bio, Inc. – 155 Arlington Street

Min Hyung Ryu, Plant Biology Engineer gave a short presentation of the company's activities. Dr.

Beck asked questions relating to the engineering of microbes.

Tome Biosciences – 100 Talcott Avenue

Paul Nederhoed, Director of R&D Operations gave a short presentation of the company's activities related to the added vivarium. There is a unique alarm incase of a disaster that does not cause harm or changes to the animals and experiments can continue. Mr. Arnold asked questions related to pathogens used at Tome.

SQZ Biotechnologies – 200 Arsenal Yards Blvd #210

Stephanie Westcott, CEO gave a short presentation of the company's activities related to their 2023 renewal. Dr. Beck inquired about the vivarium that is presently unused in the facility.

Motions granted (Amirtharaj Arnold) 3-0.
All in favor.
Roll Call

Motions granted (Arnold, Amirtharaj) 3-0.
All in favor.
Roll Call

WBSC was permitted, presentation to Board of Health

C4 Therapeutics – 490 Arsenal Way #120 & 200 for added more lab space. No vote required Advisory Only

Discussion to continue hybrid Board of Health meetings

Dr. Beck would like hybrid meetings to continue due to the public participation. Mr. Arnold noted the hybrid format addresses those residents without transportation. The State Legislature needs to vote on this issue.

Tobacco regulations update

The 1st violation needs to be determined by the BOH, the 2nd violation is 7 days suspension of tobacco sales, 3rd violation is 30 days suspension of tobacco sales. Dr. Beck stated 1st violation should be similar to the other communities in the consortium.

COVID Related Matters

Federal Government COVID rules expire on May 11, 2023. The COVID cases in Watertown are stable. Dr. Amirtharaj asked about the funding.

Staffing and Department Updates

Samantha Gatchell, ACO is introduced to the BOH. Ms. Gatchell is taking the appropriate ACO classes and is currently working on dog bites and animal inspections.

Items that could not be anticipated before the meeting

There have been requests to use bait that is not harmful to the birds and other prey and domesticated animals. Health Department is using a vitamin D based product. Mr. Ramdin is giving a presentation to the Subcommittee on Human Services to request additional funding. Vitamin D in high doses is poison to rats. There is less toxicity to secondary animals.

Adjourn:

Adjourned the meeting at 8:34 PM
Motions granted (Amirtharaj Arnold) 3-0.
All in favor.
Roll Call