

BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

The Watertown BioSafety Committee has scheduled a REMOTE ZOOM meeting on Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 7:00 pm

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

In attendance: Jacky VanLeeuwen, Corey Martin, Kathi Breen, Berent Lundeen, Bess Sorenson, Alison Davis, Linda Scott, Joan Grumblton, Shelby Farrell, George Skuse, Elaine Mello, Elodia Thomas

CALL TO ORDER: Brad Parsons called the meeting to order 7:21 pm

Minutes

Minutes approvals for April 13, 2023

(Lieberman, Parsons)

Roll Call

Mr. Parsons clarified Item #5 on the agenda – Discuss BSL3 Labs was an ongoing discussion from the last meeting.

Public Comment

Linda Scott, 55 Olcott Street asked if the residents can be involved in the discussion on BSL3 labs in the City.

Elodia Thomas, 67 Marion Road would like a meeting scheduled to address this issue.

Kathi Breen, 186 Boylston Street urged the Committee to take a data driven and fact-based approach before discussing the BSL3 labs.

Permits:

Dunad Therapeutics – 155 Arlington Street

Berent Lundeen, Senior Scientist, gave a short presentation of the company's activities. Dr. Lieberman requested the occupational health contract with Mt. Auburn Hospital and updated cell lines. Dr. Maguire asked if retroviruses will be used in the lab. Dr. McEwan questioned the use and processes of lentivirus. Mr. Parsons questioned where the compounds originate and travel from.

Dr. Lieberman made a motion to recommend approval of the application to the Board of Health with conditions:

Provide an occupational health contract with Mt. Auburn Hospital.

(Lieberman, McEwan) (5,0)

Roll Call

Additional Business

To continue discussion of the possibility of BSL3 labs in Watertown. The City would require an ordinance to not allow BSL3 labs. Dr. Maguire stated the probability of a BSL3 lab is low in Watertown. Mr. Parsons stated BSL3 in a commercial lab is rare due to the costs. The EAP is intense with a BSL3 and the HEPA filter and air circulation on 24 hours per day. Dr. Lieberman stated it would be a year process to install a BSL3 lab due to the proper infrastructure and a great deal of regulations. Dr. McEwan stated she is more concerned with the BSL2 labs with some money and little lab experience. This is why we have WBSC. Corey Martin stated most landlords do not want a BSL3 lab in their buildings. Joan Grumblton is opposed to BSL3 labs in the City. Dr. Lieberman stated that COVID 19 would be studied in a BSL3 lab, we don't want

to close the door on science that saves lives. Dr. McEwan stated as a member of this advisory committee, WBSC would ensure safety conditions are met in a BSL3 lab. Linda Scott stated BSL3 labs deal with serious organisms and mishaps have happened.

Inspections of labs by BOH or a designee. Mr. Mele inspects labs for Flammable storage and permits. WFD inspects for chemical usage, container sizes, where the chemicals are stored, extinguisher replacements and dates on the safety cabinets. WFD does not concentrate on lab workings and procedures. Mr. Parsons feels it is important to have a paid consultant to inspect and review lab procedures.

Next Meeting

The June 1, 2023 is a definite meeting.

Adjourn

Adjourned at 8:36 PM