



Board of Health Meeting

Wednesday, August 16, 2023 at 7:00 PM
Remote Only

Agenda

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, the meeting and public hearing will be conducted with remote opportunities for participation. Remote participation and access methods include:

ACCESS INFORMATION:

- A. This meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 16, 2023 at 7:00PM. Remote Only
- B. The Public may join the virtual meeting online: <https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/83188312663>
- C. The meeting will be televised through WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television): <http://vodwcatv.org/CablecastPublicSite/?channel=3>
- D. Public may comment through email: lrardin@watertown-ma.gov
- E. Please Visit the Board of Health Website here: <https://www.watertown-ma.gov/176/Board-of-Health>

-
- 1. Call to Order
 - 2. Acceptance of Minutes
 - A. Draft Minutes for June 21, 2023
 - 3. Public Comment
 - 4. WBSC Permitting Recommendations and Information on Review Process
 - A. A discussion related to amended permits for future review and issuing permits by the BOH.
 - 5. Health Department Permitted
 - A. Dyno Therapeutics – 343 Arsenal Street
No vote required - Advisory only
 - 6. Staffing and Department Updates
 - A. Activity and Staffing Updates
 - 7. Items that could not be anticipated before meeting
 - 8. Adjournment

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

MINUTES

**The Watertown Board of Health has scheduled a REMOTE ZOOM meeting on
Wednesday June 21, 2023 at 7:00 pm**

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

Staff: Maureen Foley, Clerk

In attendance: Brandon Linz, Lindsey O'Rourke, Michael Dube, Shawn Morgan, Paul Lane, Emma West, Diania Zhivaki, Adam Williams, Nathan Witters, S. Breegi, Ben Boyerinas, Kathi Breen, Isabelle Le Mercierisa, Nelson Chau, Laura Brandano

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Beck called the meeting to order 7:00 pm

Minutes

Minutes were approved for April 19, 2023 meeting,

Motions granted (Amirtharaj, Arnold) 3-0.

All in favor.

Roll Call

Minutes were approved for May 3, 2023 Dangerous Dog Hearing,

Motions granted (Amirtharaj, Arnold) 2-0.

All in favor.

Roll Call

Public Comment

No Public Comments

WBSC Permitting Recommendations

Digital Biology Inc. – 313 Pleasant Street

Emma West, Co-Founder gave a short presentation of the company's activities.

Dr. Beck asked about invitro work. Mr. Arnold asked how AI was used in the lab environment.

AvenCell Therapeutics – 500 Forge Road

Ben Boyerinas, Director of Immune Oncology gave a short presentation of the company's activities. Shawn Morgan, Director of Operations gave a presentation about lab's floor plan and leasing 20000 squ ft to another lab.

Dr. Beck inquired about the engineering of cells and asked about T-cell models to mitigating the growth of tumors. Mr. Arnold asked if AvenCell was creating a master cell line. Dr. Amirtharaj inquired about using patient's cells and the plan is to use healthy human cells.

Corner Therapeutics – 300 North Beacon Street #202 & 204

Laura Brandano, VP of Operations gave a short presentation of the company's activities. Diania Zhivaki, Principal Scientist spoke about the present experiments being done on the short term. Dr. Beck and Mr. Arnold inquired about the inactivated virus.

Dr. Amirtharaj and second by Mr. Arnold, made a motion to approve three applications on recommendation of WBSC (Amirtharaj Arnold) 3-0.
All in favor.
Roll Call

Orna Therapeutics – 500 Forge Road

Michael Dube, Head of Operations gave a status review. Ms. Foley stated via email WBSC requested Orna to be on this agenda.

Department Update

Ms. Myers stated the department attended the Food Show and learned about new technologies. Staff also received CPR training from our Public Health Nurse. There are 3 CPR trainings available to our residents scheduled. Samantha Gatchell, ACO is completing her training next week.

Ms. Myers reviewed the rodent/rat status and progress in the field and social media messaging for residents and businesses.

Health Officers are catching up on food establishment inspections and making sure these facilities are in compliance.

FY24 budget includes the hiring of a Rodent Inspector.

Next meeting

Scheduled for August 16, 2023 by remote only

Adjourn:

Adjourned the meeting at 8:26 PM

Environmental Health Program Activities June 2023

- Staff attended training on Service Animals in Public Settings
- Tobacco Compliance inspections with youth buyer.
- Rabies Clinic for June 24th, 2023, from 8:30-11:30 am.
- Pre-op for Gymuri
- Social media presence, posting information on food, environmental health, rodents, and ACO related topics.
- Continued weekly dumpster inspections have started, inspecting food establishments as well as problem locations.
- Weekly surveillance of problem properties and or areas throughout town.
- Monitoring of rodent control plans for ongoing construction.
- Continued baiting throughout the City, including sewers.
- ACO Gatchell rescued and transported wounded wildlife.

Activity	June Totals	Year to Date Totals
Food Inspections	13	55
Food Re-inspections	2	12
Mobile Food Vehicle Inspections	0	3
Temporary Food Inspections	15	15
Housing Inspections	5	31
Housing Re-inspections	2	13
Lead Determinations	0	1
Swimming Pool/Whirlpool Inspections*	1	23
Tanning Establishment Inspections		
Body Art Establishment Inspections		

General Nuisance Inspections	10	56
Rodent Complaints	17	65
Administrative Order Letters	13	77
Administrative Hearings	0	0
Tickets	0	5
Court hearings/filings	2	6
Totals	80	362

Environmental Health Team report prepared by Abbey Myers, Chief Environmental Health Officer

Environmental Health Program Activities July 2023

- Health Department had an information table at the Farmer's Market handing out sunscreen and bug repellent.
- A. Myers passed her REHS / RS exam.
- West Nile positive mosquito found in Watertown- press release sent out.
- Social media presence, posting information on food, environmental health, rodents, and ACO related topics.
- Continued weekly dumpster inspections have started, inspecting all food establishments as well as problem locations.
- Weekly surveillance of problem properties and or areas throughout town.
- Monitoring of rodent control plans for ongoing construction.
- Continued baiting throughout the City, including sewers.
- ACO Gatchell rescued and transported wounded wildlife.
- Found bird and cat in ACO custody.
- Animal Cruelty investigation

Activity	July Totals	Year to Date Totals
Food Inspections	10	65
Food Re-inspections	4	16
Mobile Food Vehicle Inspections	0	1
Temporary Food Inspections	0	15
Housing Inspections	5	36
Housing Re-inspections	4	17
Lead Determinations	0	1
Swimming Pool/Whirlpool Inspections*	1	24
Tanning Establishment Inspections		

Body Art Establishment Inspections		
General Nuisance Inspections	10	66
Rodent Complaints	11	77
Administrative Order Letters	14	91
Administrative Hearings	0	0
Tickets	2	7
Court hearings/filings	0	6
Totals	61	423

Environmental Health Team report prepared by Abbey Myers, Chief Environmental Health Officer