



Board of Health Meeting

Wednesday, October 18, 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, October 18, 2023 at 7:00PM. Remote only
- B. The meeting will be televised through WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television):
<http://vodwcatv.org/CablecastPublicSite/watch-now?site=3>
- C. Public may comment through email: Amyers@watertown-ma.gov
- D. **Join Zoom Meeting** <https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/83188312663>
Meeting ID: 831 8831 2663
- E. Please Visit the Board of Health Website here: <https://www.watertown-ma.gov/176/Board-of-Health>

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- 1. Call to Order
 - 2. Acceptance of Minutes
 - A. Review of draft minutes September 20, 2023
 - 3. Public Comment
 - 4. WBSC Recommended Amendments to the BOH
 - A. AvenCell Therapeutics – 500 Forge Road - Amendment
This lab is presenting due to manufacturing their own viral and gamma vectors
 - 5. WBSC Permitting Recommendations and Information on Review Process
 - A. One Cyte Biotechnologies – 199 Dexter Avenue
 - 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 September 20, 2023 at 7:00 pm**

PRESENT: Richard Arnold and Dr. Dominic Amirtharaj

Staff: Abbey Myers, Acting Director of Health Maureen Foley, Clerk

In attendance: Linda Scott, Jack Jezard, Kathi Breen, Lindsey DeVaux, Paul Lane, Issabelle LeMercier, Michele Crawford, Jordan Bartlebaum, Michael Kim, Paula Halpin

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

Minutes

Minutes were approved for August 16, 2023 meeting,

Motions granted (Arnold, Amirtharaj) 2-0.

All in favor.

Roll Call

Public Comment

No Public Comments

WBSC Permitting Recommendations and Information on Review Process

Seismic Therapeutic – 85 Walnut Street

Lindsey DeVaux, Lab Manager gave a short presentation of the company's activities. Seismic plans on adding a vivarium in early 2024 and at that time they will file an amendment with the WBSC. Dr. Amirtharaj inquired about the use of human cell lines, blood and plasma.

Aleksia Therapeutics – 65 Grove Street #102

Eunice Park, Head of Biology gave a short presentation of the company's activities. Mr. Arnold referenced the use of lentivirus.

Mr. Arnold made a motion to recommend approval of the biosafety permits for Seismic Therapeutic and Aleksia Therapeutics.

(Arnold, Amirtharaj) (2,0)

Roll Call

Health Department Permitted

AvenCell Therapeutics – 500 Forge Road Amendment

Isabelle LeMercier, Director of Immuno Oncology gave a short presentation of the company's vivarium which will be managed by Explora Bio Labs. Dr. Amirtharaj inquired about any new protocols in the new location.

Dr. Amirtharaj made a motion to recommend approval of the biosafety permit for a vivarium for AvenCell Therapeutics.

(Amirtharaj, Arnold) (2,0)
Roll Call

Department Update

Abbey Myers, Acting Director of Health stated the department hired a new Per Diem Food Inspector. Health has posted a job description for Health Officer primarily involved in rodent control throughout the city. Mr. Arnold wants to review the job description. On Saturday, September 23rd will be Faire on the Square event. Health Department will be inspecting food vendors.

Flu vaccinations have been given to first responders and DPW employees. We are waiting for the high dose flu vaccine before we vaccinate the seniors. Mr. Arnold asked about COVID boosters. Ms. Myers responded, if we received prefilled syringes that would work, otherwise a vial would go to waste. People have many options to receive a booster.

Migrant families (16 to 20 families) are living in a hotel in the city. We worked with state to provide vaccines and lead testing. The National Guard is providing transportation. The state is delivering food 3 times each day. The food is not age and culturally appropriate.

Dr. Amirtharaj inquired if these families will settle in Watertown or are they moving to another municipality. Ms. Myers stated the contract for the hotel goes until March 2024.

Dr. Amirtharaj watched the Committee on Human Services related to mitigating the rat problem in the city. Dr. Amirtharaj said he learned the electronic traps are more informational than effective. Ms. Myers stated the low-tech bait boxes are the best tool we have.

The demolition of WHS is baited by the perimeter by the contractor. Health will bait the side streets adjacent to the construction site.

Mr. Arnold is concerned with the poison in the bait boxes to pets and secondary animals. Dr. Amirtharaj inquired if Watertown can mandate the use of the less toxic bait for these contractors to use. Ms. Myers replied, the rodents need to consume more of the less toxic bait in order to have an effect and municipalities can not mandate any particular bait.

Items that could not be anticipated before meeting/future meetings

Health Department is preparing for Faire on the Square.

Adjourn:

(Amirtharaj, Arnold) 2-0.

All in favor.

Roll Call

Adjourned the meeting at 7:53 PM