

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

MINUTES

**The Watertown Board of Health has scheduled a REMOTE ZOOM meeting on
Wednesday February 21, 2024 at 7:00 pm**

PRESENT: Richard Arnold, Dr. Dominic Amirtharaj and Kim Netter

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

In attendance: Sibhon Branch, Sandy Moynihan, Thomas Leighton, Jennifer Dovey, Joan Gumbleton, Corey Martin, Ivan Masclan, Linda Scott, Sarah Constantino,

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

Minutes

Minutes were approved for January 24, 2024 and February 5, 2024 meetings,

(Amirtharaj, Arnold) (3,0)

Roll Call

Public Comment

No Public Comments

Appointment of a New Tobacco Agent

BOH voted on Mr. McCracken as Temporary Tobacco Agent

(Amirtharaj, Netter) (3,0)

Roll Call

Hearing to appeal order to correct at 129 Lexington Street

Ms. Moynihan stated she needs to show the latest pest control report. Ms. Moynihan stated her tenant is not cooperating by locking her bedroom door. The pest control cannot access the room to fumigate for bed bugs. Per Ms. Myers, the city will remove the infected mattresses at no cost to the homeowner. Since the homeowner is doing her due diligence to take care of the bed bug infestation the complaint is closed.

Health Department Permitting an Amendment

Seismic Therapeutics – 85 Walnut Street #210

Lindsey DeVeau, Director of Lab Operations gave a short presentation of the company's related to an onsite vivarium. Mr. Arnold questioned the use of infectious materials.

Mr. Arnold made a motion to recommend approval of this amendment for Seismic.

(Arnold, Amirtharaj) (3,0)

Roll Call

Health Department Permitting a new lab

Triveni Bio, Inc – 99 Coolidge Avenue #405

Thomas Leighton, Lab Manager gave a short presentation of the company's activities.

Jennifer Dovey, Chief Scientific Officer gave a short presentation related to the science in the laboratory. Triveni leases space from Matchpoint. Ms. Netter questioned cross contamination at the bench level. Ms. Dovey explained that the benches are separated.

Mr. Arnold made a motion to recommend approval of this permit for Triveni.

(Arnold, Amirtharaj) (3,0)

Roll Call

Introduction to Dumpster Regulations

Ms. Myers presented the process for the BOH to approve Dumpster Regulations. This includes public hearings, publishing in the newspaper, public comments, sending the regulations to Mass. Department of Environmental Protection.

Ms. Myers stated Dumpster Regulations can deter rodent harborage and provide enforceable actions if Health Department determines violations. Mr. Arnold asked how the Health Department will identify dumpsters. Ms. Myers stated we know the food establishment and we will coordinate with building and DPW. Dr. Amirtharaj asked how Health determines who is responsible for the dumpster.

Ms. Myers stated Health Department will not charge a fee initially because a registration will be enough to enforce compliance. Dr. Amirtharaj wanted to know what is the plan once these dumpsters are registered. Mr. Arnold asked if there will be regular inspections and if a dumpster is in poor shape. Health department will contact the waste management companies that service Watertown businesses. BOH scheduled a hearing on March 20, 2024. Mr. Arnold would like the public to be informed of this hearing via social media, Watertown News etc.

Department Update

1. New Covid test kits arrived. We will dispense to City Hall, COA, Library.
2. New Emergency Dispensing Plans
3. Working with DPW to remediate
4. Educating residents with the bait used in the boxes and with environmentally friendly substances.
5. Wayside Youth and Family handles Social work for the residents 59 and younger and COA handles the social work with residents 60 and older.
6. Posting the position for CEO.

Ms. Netter inquired if Health Department will be involved with the HHS survey.

Board Introductions

Ms. Netter explained her background and positions over the past. Dr. Amirtharaj explained his position at Mt. Auburn Hospital. Mr. Arnold gave his background as a nurse practitioner.

Organization of Board of Health

Board voted Mr. Arnold as Chair

(Amirtharaj, Netter) (3,0)

Roll Call

Board voted Dr. Amirtharaj as Vice-Chair
(Arnold, Netter) (3,0)
Roll Call

Ms. Myers stated the BOH needs to sign the Order for Nuisance Dog.

Next Meeting

March 20, 2024

Adjourn:

(Amirtharaj, Netter) (3,0)

All in favor.

Roll Call

Adjourned the meeting at 8:25 PM