

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

September 18, 2007

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Barbara Beck called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM

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PRESENT: Dr. Barbara Beck, Dr. John Straus, Dr. Carl Brownsberger, Gerard Cody and Steven Ward

Minute Review: The Board reviewed the minutes of August 1, 2007. Dr. Straus made a motion to approve the minutes of August 1, 2007. Dr. Brownsberger seconded the motion. All were in favor.

BU Biolab Hearing: Ernesta Kraczkiewicz spoke on behalf of the Watertown Citizens for Environmental Safety and the concerns of the citizens regarding the location of the BU Biolab. Ms. Kraczkiewicz gave a brief overview of the history of Biosafety labs in the United States.

Dr. Lynn Klotz spoke to the State and Federal regulations that pertain to the oversight of BSL4 laboratories. Mr. Klotz addressed the history of laboratory accidents in research laboratories and their deleterious public health impacts and the need to effectively regulate these facilities.

Dr. David Ozonoff discussed the "distortion of priorities" when it came to funding BSL4 laboratories since numerous worthy public health research projects are neglected as a result of misguided priorities and limited funding streams. Dr. Ozonoff spoke to the need of civilian oversight of BSL4 laboratories.

After much discussion it was decided that the BOH would send a letter to Watertown's Representatives and State Senator in support of Representative Fox's proposed legislation regarding oversight of Biosafety laboratories.

Next Meeting Date: October 24, 2007

Meeting Adjourned: 10:05 PM