

**CITY OF GLOUCESTER**  
**Board of Health**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**November 5, 2020**  
**5:00 p.m.**  
**Remote Meeting Via Zoom**

Board members virtually present courtesy of a system organized by the City's IT Department: Chairperson: Dr. Richard Sagall; Vice–Chairperson: Robert Harris; Frederick Cowan; Joe Rosa; and Claudia Schweitzer. Present from the Health Department: Health Director: Karin Carroll; Assistant Health Director: Max Schenk.

Also present Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken

The meeting started at 5:00 p.m.

This meeting is recorded by video and audio in accordance with state Open Meeting Law. Consistent with the Governor's orders suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law and banning gatherings of more than 10 people, this meeting will be conducted by remote participation. If you are calling in on a phone you can press Star 9 (\*9) to request to speak. If you are watching on a computer or device there is a "raise hand" button that you can tap or press to request to speak. Please use either of these options during oral communications to be recognized to speak.

**PUBLIC ORAL COMMUNICATION**

There was no "Public Oral Communication".

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** by Mr. Cowan that the Gloucester Board of Health approve the minutes of the meeting of October 1, 2020 as written. **Seconded** by Mr. Harris. **CARRIED.**

**MOTION** by Ms. Schweitzer that the Gloucester Board of Health approve the minutes of the meeting of October 15, 2020 as written. **Seconded** by Mr. Cowan. **CARRIED.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

No "Committee Reports".

**NEW BUSINESS**

Per Section 5: “Registrations and Permits” of the Gloucester Board of Health Regulation  
“Regarding the Use of Recombinant DNA Technology” Application by Gloucester Biotechnology  
Academy Registration for rDNA (exempt work)-

*Mr. Schenk* stated that the Board of Health passed rDNA regulations several years ago and part of those regulations is a permitting process.

*Mr. Rosa* stated that in 2009 the Board of Health passed rDNA regulations in an attempt to attract biotech to Gloucester and to provide assurance to the community that their safety was being protected and to limit potential surprises. He gave a brief overview of the rDNA regulation citing the 4 levels of risk and containment or BioSafety Levels:

BSL 1- for work with no rDNA dangers

BSL 2- for work associated with some disease which is rarely serious and for which interventions are available

BSL 3- work is associated with serious human disease posing a high risk to lab workers but not the community.

BSL 4- work likely to cause serious human disease posing a high risk to both workers and the community

*Mr. Rosa* stated that Gloucester’s regulations prohibit work requiring BSL 3 and 4. He stated that most of the work done at the biotech establishment in Gloucester will pose no significant risk to people’s health or the environment. He stated that in Gloucester, such work will require registration. More extensive work that is not exempt will require a permit. In normal circumstances, the Board of Health would nonetheless be made aware of this work through the Gloucester Biosafety Committee (GBC)- a committee of the Board called for in our Regulations. The GBC would interact with the Institutional Biosafety Committee of each organization or perhaps group of institutions. As with the GBC, the IBC would be required to have at least one member from the community and not associated with the Institution. However, because of the pandemic, none of that organization has been established. Instead, there are 2 registration requests coming directly to the Board- from the Gloucester Marine Genomics Institute and also from its education arm, the Gloucester Biotech Academy.

*John Doyle*, Education Director of the Gloucester Biotechnology Academy appeared before the board. He gave a brief overview of the programs offered at the Gloucester Biotechnology Academy. He invited board members to tour the facility in the spring.

*Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken* appeared for the board. She stated she was concerned about hemocytic neoplasia in shellfish. She stated that she is very happy that GMGI has a home in Gloucester.

*Dr. Andrea Bodnar*, Science Director of Gloucester Marine Genomics Institute, appeared before the board. She stated that hemocytic plasia is essentially a neoplasia cancer that affects

bivalves and it can be transmitted from animal to animal and in some cases cross species. She stated that there is no risk to humans.

*Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken* stated that she would love to have aquaculture in Gloucester and she would like more studies to be done on the marine diseases and if there is a need for funding she is willing to petition the Governor for funds.

**MOTION** by Mr. Rosa that the Gloucester Board of Health approve the application for registration for rDNA for the Gloucester Biotechnology Academy Registration. **Seconded** by Ms. Schweitzer. **CARRIED.**

Per Section 5: "Registrations and Permits" of the Gloucester Board of Health Regulation "Regarding the Use of Recombinant DNA Technology" Application by the Gloucester Marine Genomics Institute for rDNA (exempt work)-

*Dr. Andrea Bodnar*, Science Director of Gloucester Marine Genomics Institute, appeared before the board. She stated that Sam Major is also present with her who is a research associate, laboratory manager, and safety officer. She gave a brief background of what they do at GMGI.

*Mr. Cowan* asked if this application was for a particular study or a blanket application that allows the work to continue without having to come back before the Board of Health.

*Dr. Bodnar* responded that the application is broad so they are hoping it would be a blanket registration.

**MOTION** by Mr. Rosa that the Gloucester Board of Health approve the application for registration for rDNA for the Gloucester Marine Genomics Institute as written. **Seconded** by Mr. Cowan. **CARRIED.**

Appeal by Ravi Kumar, manager, 7-Eleven (#37379A) 28 Washington Street, regarding violation of the Gloucester Board of Health Regulation "Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products" section O. "Sale of Flavored Tobacco Products Prohibited"

*Joyce Redford* Director North Shore / Cape Ann Tobacco Control Program appeared before the board. She gave an overview of the violation at 7-Eleven regarding the sale of tobacco products.

*Ravi Kumar*, manager, 7-Eleven (#37379A) 28 Washington Street appeared before the board. He stated that he was sent the restricted tobacco products by mistake from the corporate office.

The board agreed that Mr. Kumar is responsible for the product that he puts on the shelf in his store.

**MOTION** by Mr. Cowan that the Gloucester Board of Health sustain the violation for 7-Eleven of 28 Washington Street and the \$1,000 fine should be imposed. **Seconded** by Mr. Harris.  
**CARRIED.**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### UPDATE: COVID-19 Response Actions-

*Mr. Schenk* stated that the trend for Covid-19 cases continues to decline in Gloucester. He stated that there are currently 11 active cases in Gloucester. He stated that there has been no transmission within the schools, no new deaths, and the nursing homes remain in compliance.

### **OTHER DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

#### Monthly Report

*Mr. Schenk* stated that the Public Health Nurse is back in the office.

*Mr. Cowan* asked if there was a plan to reopen the Children's Dental Clinic. *Mr. Schenk* responded that he thought it was in the works. *Chairperson Sagall* stated they are trying to open, it is just taking some time.

### **CONCERNS OF BOARD MEMBERS**

Rockport Board of Health- *Chairperson Sagall* stated that he has been in discussion with the Rockport Board of Health regarding a collaboration meeting.

Next Regular Monthly Meeting Board of Health- The next Board of Health monthly meeting will be December 3, 2020 at 5:30 pm. The board agreed to change the meeting times to 5:30 p.m. *Mr. Cowan* stated that he cannot attend the December meeting.

**MOTION** by Mr. Cowan to adjourn.  
Seconded by Mr. Rosa **CARRIED.**  
MEETING ADJOURNED – 6:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Bobbi Orlando

Accepted by:

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Richard Sagall, Chairperson

Documents Referenced:

November 5 2020 Board of Health Agenda  
October 1, 2020 Board of Health Minutes  
October 15, 2020 Board of Health Minutes