

**Economic Development Advisory Board
Lab & Bio/Life Sciences Subcommittee
Minutes**

July 13, 2021

8:30 AM-10:00AM held remotely via Zoom

EDAB Board Lab Subcommittee members in attendance (noted by Y/N)

Cliff Brown	Y
Marilyn Newman	Y
Carol Levin	Y
Paul Saner	Y

Staff present: Kara Brewton; Jonathan Simpson

Members of the Public: Jennifer Dopazo Gilbert.

Paul Saner opened the meeting remotely via Zoom due to COVID and announced that the Zoom meeting would be recorded.

Kara Brewton reviewed her internal conversations with various departments with questions she and committee members posed about the construction and oversight of a bio lab. Her conversations included Fred Russell, DPW Director of Water and Seward; Dan Bennett, Building Commissioner; and Fire Department staff. Highlights included MWRA will require a permit for sewer discharge and periodic inspections, fire safety for tall buildings requires internal suppression systems, specialize training should be provided to EMS staff before the first lab building opens, Fire should be represented on a Biosafety Advisory Council, and the routine working coordination with Building, Health and fire will apply to this use. The Building Commissioner was not aware of any special regulatory building standards or routine inspection requirements, and would address any noise or lighting issues as his department does in the normal course. Kara will provide the Committee with a written report of her conversations once the Fire Chief has signed off.

The Committee then reviewed the draft Regulatory Term Sheet Outline which includes both zoning and public health regulation concepts. This included a discussion of the draft zoning use recommendations. The issue of what existing wet and dry lab uses are presently in Town was discussed, and several existing use definitions were raised. It was agreed that additional input on this is needed from both the Building Commissioner and Public Health. Kara was to follow up with Dan, and Paul with Patricia Maher. What zoning districts this use should apply to and whether by special permit was discussed. These developments would be major impact projects requiring design and site plan review and other special permits. Marilyn Newman noted that most peer communities required a special permit for life science labs. Whether the definition should be bifurcated into those that are drier vs. wet was raised. Cliff Brown suggested we allow this use broadly so that the market can determine what might be viable. When such a zoning use would be recommended for adoption and by who was also considered as was the timing of a public health by-law.

Jonathan Simpson, Associate Town Counsel, joined the meeting to discuss public health related questions that Marilyn via Kara provided him in advance. He explained that life science uses can be

regulated at the local level by Dr. Jett, Director of Public Health. Jett is effectively the Board of Public Health with broad responsibilities under Chapter 111 to protect the public health. It was noted that at the March meeting the Committee had with Dr. Jett that he suggested a Bio Safety Committee be formed to advise him in the promulgation of regulations and issuing licenses. After discussion there was a consensus that a general by law should be proposed setting forth the big picture considerations outlined in Marilyn's memo for the public health regulation of this use including the establishment of an Advisory Council. Paul noted the apparent many residents with significant expertise in this field.

The discussion returned to any non-conforming issue due to the proposed zoning use, and particulars of the draft zoning definition. Paul asked Jonathan to review a revised draft of the Term Sheet when ready. Shortly thereafter Jonathan departed the meeting.

Marilyn then summarized a conversation she and Paul had with Dr. Henry Warren, Associate Director for Veterinary and Diagnostic Services at Harvard about Animal testing facilities or vivaria. Marilyn overviewed the Federal regulation and national credentialing of this field. There are less involved regulations for rodents than for larger animals regulated as "USDA species" for which facilities are very expensive to construct and operate. Unlike another research being either Bio level one or two, there is no clear standards for vivarium risk level. Henry suggested we look at the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC), the field's non-profit private accrediting organization which Marilyn will do. She then departed the meeting.

Carol led a conversation about an outline she prepared of the Committee's report, and she assigned sections of that to be completed by members. The committee will discuss the first draft of this Report at its next meeting on August 2nd.

Paul then moved the minutes from June 15th as amended. They were approved unanimously by those present at the time of the vote.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10 AM.