

## Biosafety Committee Meeting Minutes

Public Body: Somerville Biosafety Committee

Committee members in attendance: *Elyse Belarge, Rachel Nadkarni, Alex Vira, Deputy Chief Bill Hallihan, Captain Tim Bakey, Francine Rogers, Micahel Switkes, William Fisher, and Colin Zeigler*

Date: Thursday, July 17, 2025

Time: 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Minutes:

### **Colin Zeigler opened the meeting: START RECORDING**

*Good evening, everyone,*

*Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this public meeting will be conducted via remote participation. A recording of this meeting will be made available along with the minutes on our website <https://www.somervillema.gov/biosafety>.*

*I would like to thank everyone for joining us this evening, thank you for attending and committing your time I really appreciate it. We have a busy schedule ahead so let's get to it! I am going to call the roll for committee members:*

Present: Elyse Belarge, Rachel Nadkarni, Alex Vira, Deputy Chief Bill Hallihan, Captain Tim Bakey, Francine Rogers, Micahel Switkes, William Fisher, and Colin Zeigler

Karin Carroll was marked as absent.

### **1. Introduction of Emergency Management representative William Fisher, Director of Office of Emergency Management**

*I would like to get started by introducing the committee's newest member William Fisher, Director for the Office of Emergency Management. Bill introduced himself to the group.*

### **2. Presentations by:**

- a. Apriori Bio at 101 South St.**
- b. Prologue Bio at 101 South St.**
- c. Metaphore Bio at 101 South St.**
- d. FL101 Bio at 101 South St.**
- e. FL107 Bio at 101 South St.**

*Tonight, we have a busy schedule with five applicants presenting this evening. Each is a subsidiary of Flagship Pioneering located in the 101 South St facility. Because of this we will try to reduce redundancies during the presentations by having Donald Crookes, Sr. Manager, of EHS, present on the proposed research facility, description of the health and safety training, permits and timeline, and contracts in place.*

*We will then have each representative from their respective research group present on the individual research, company and protocols.*

*This will take place in the following order according to the agenda:*

*a. Apriori Bio*

*b. Prologue Bio*

*c. Metaphore Bio*

*d. FL101 Bio*

*e. FL107 Bio*

*The Q&A section for applicants will take place at the end of presentations to preserve time. If you have questions, comments or concerns, please indicate which applicant (or applicants) they are directed to. Committee members please use the “raise hand” function to be recognized and public attendees please enter your questions in the chat, I will then recognize you when appropriate.*

*Donald the floor is yours feel free to share your screen.*

Presentations took place in A-Z order: Apori, FL101, FL107, Metaphore, and Prologue. Q&A Section begins.

Michael Switkes: To Apiori. About reproduction competent and adding potential pathogen proteins and issues related to gain of function. Sukmani Badi responded on behalf of Apiori.

Francine Rogers: To Don Crookes, questions related to shared equipment and ensuring they are cleaned between company to company usage. Don: Each company has a protocol to clean the machine when work is completed. Staff are also informed to keep tabs on cleaning protocols. Francine follows up with glove use on exit doors. Don: The doors leading to office spaces, no gloves. Francine: using bleach solution in a BSC, any consideration to bagging bleach to avoid knocking over? Don: considerations being made.

Bill Fisher: flagged that Informal Emergency Planning Committee should be added to the EAP, also functional needs concerning evacuation of those disabled. Don: We have fire wardens assigned along with training, risk assessments are taken ahead of time if there may be a disabled person within the specific spaces for determination of best practices for evacuation. Bill: How often are drills, Don: once a year.

Colin Zeigler: Concerns with the City not being listed on the COI as a Certificate Holder, Will be updated.

Motion of approval and completion that minor details are latered and submitted before payment is received:

Vote: Bill Fisher: aye Alex Vira: Abstain, Michael Switkes: aye, Francine Rogers: aye, William Hallinan: Aye Elyse Belarge: Aye, Karin Carroll: Absent, Colin Zeigler: Aye, Rachel Nadkarni: left early.

Applications marked as approved with conditions.

### **3. Update on renewal period being finalized for January 1 – March 30 annually**

Update on renewal period have been updated, All renewals will be cycled into a January-March. Period. To ease admin and meeting burden placed on members.

Vote to conclude was unanimous for those in attendance.

**MEETING AJOURNED**