

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:

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. Presentations by applicants for review, and discussion:
 - a. Empress Therapeutics at 101 South St.

Anne Marie Zawacki, Louis King and Dawn Thompson were in attendance to present on Empress Therapeutics application and answer questions. Presentation established and described the materials within the application that met the requirements. Committee members had questions at the conclusion of the presentation:

Francine Rogers: Clarification on some renamed terminology on genesis to clarify clostridium. Dawn responded with agreement and will make those changes as needed. Submissions of those updates will be made to the portal.

Bill Fisher: On the emergency documentation there was not a procedure for shelter in place defined. Dawn, responded that when they are in the new space, they will make these changes. People with disabilities should also be included in emergency planning even though there are none currently: future, undisclosed or temporary should be anticipated. Bill suggests adding a contingency plan and location

reflected in plan for these cases. Bill also recommended the office of emergency management and emergency planning committee to be added to the contact lists.

Colin Zeigler: Questions on training frequency. Lous, intro, annual refresher and blood borne pathogen as required. Eventually niche training will be included. IBC membership was also questioned. Anne Marie will be emailing the members' names and contact information to Colin, will be added to the application for reference.

Vote for completion and approval with conditions of corrections discussed:

Rachel Nadkarni yes

Deputy Chief Bill Hallihan yes

Francine Rogers yes

Michael Switkes yes

William Fisher yes

Colin Zeigler yes

Karin Carroll yes

Colin Zeigler moved to end the meeting. Second and voted to conclude unanimous.