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## CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

### Bio-Safety Committee

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## MEETING MINUTES

September 3, 2014

Setti D. Warren  
Mayor

Linda Walsh  
Health and Human Services  
Interim Commissioner

Nancy Hyde  
Economic Development  
Director

Committee Members  
Carl Cohen  
Thekla Diehl  
William Dietrich  
Edward (Ted) Marple  
Gary Moulin  
Jay Schwartz

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**Commissioners:** Carl Cohen, Thekla Diehl, William Dietrich, Edward (Ted) Marple, Jay Schwartz

**Staff:** Dori Zaleznik, Chief Administrative Officer

Linda Walsh - Interim Commissioner, Health and Human Services

Nancy Hyde – Economic Development Director

**Guests:** Chris Steele

**Absent:** Gary Moulin

**To be invited to future meetings** – Aric Parnes, Brenda Mulligan

The meeting began at 6:40 PM.

Linda Walsh kicked off this inaugural meeting for the newly reconstituted Bio Safety Committee.

1. **Introductions** – All committee members, staff and guests introduced themselves.
2. **Review of Existing Ordinance and Discussion Regarding Revisions**
  - a. During the discussion of the existing Recombinant DNA Ordinance, the committee noted the following: Easy to read, refers to other documents that are authoritative, thus limiting the guidance found in the ordinance, and companies are dealing with multiple issues at same time, but the ordinance is presently limited to recombinant DNA. The City of Cambridge Biosafety web site was held out as an example of providing a strong web presence where the landing page provides a synopsis of information and the ability to look at further detail by topic.
  - b. The committee it will take several months to a year to develop a revised ordinance. The current ordinance doesn't deal with newer technologies and does not accommodate future evolutions.
  - c. From economic development standpoint, we need to think about what makes the process predictable.
  - d. Current ordinance is outdated and should be crafted to cast a broader view that addresses ongoing changes and advancement in technology
  - e. Emphasis should be on creating a process that is more welcoming and clearer to interested individuals and businesses
  - f. Committee members would like clarification from the legal department. Beyond the ordinance rewrite they discussed possible responsibilities for education the public and taking an active role in advocacy

3. Discussion of Permit Application for Karyopharm Therapeutics - Representatives from Karyopharm included one of the founding partners, Sharon Shacham, Ronit Milstein, Yosef Landesman, Fabio Petrocca and Heather Houde

- a. Karyopharm Therapeutics Inc. is a clinical-stage pharmaceutical company focused on discovery and development of novel first-in-class drugs directed against nuclear transport targets for the treatment of cancer and other major diseases. The company is moving to Newton from Natick. The company was founded in 2010 by Sharon Shacham and her husband.
- b. The front office staff has located in their Wells Avenue space under a temporary occupancy permit. The laboratory space is in the process of being built out. There are presently 42 employees with the expectation for additional growth.
- c. The permitting needs for a small portion of Karyopharm's business was discussed. The committee requested minor updates to the company's operations manual
- d. Motion – Carl Cohen moved the committee recommend to the Director of Health and Human Services the approval of special permit for Karyopharm's Recombinant DNA laboratory research subject to the Director's satisfactory receipt of the requested documentation updates. Thekla Diehl seconded the motion. Vote in favor – 5, vote opposed – 0.

4. Other Business

5. Next Meeting Date – Thursday, October 9 @ 7:30PM. Room – TBD.

The meeting ended at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Walsh  
Interim Commissioner, Health and Human Services

Nancy C. Hyde  
Economic Development Director