

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

September 9, 2021

8:00AM – 9:00 AM held remotely by Zoom

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

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

Staff present: Kara Brewton (for second half of meeting)

Members of the Public included: none

Materials provided ahead of time to the Board & via links in the agenda included: 9/9/2021 agenda; draft minutes for 8/3/21 and 8/25/21 meetings; Combined Subcommittee Draft Report including draft Regulatory Concept Outline.

After opening the Zoom, Kara Brewton made Cliff Brown a co-host and left the meeting for the first half hour due to a conflict.

Paul Saner opened the meeting remotely via Zoom due to COVID, ensured all members were able to participate with audio and video, and announced that the Zoom meeting would be recorded with Zoom transcript feature enabled to facilitate the preparation of summary minutes.

Discussion of Combined Subcommittee Draft Report

First, Subcommittee members reviewed input received from Jonathan Simpson and Dan Bennett, by email 9/8/21, which did not necessitate any change in the draft Regulatory Concept Outline.

If the broad definition of research and development laboratory raises questions about status of some pre-existing labs and research facilities, the Building Commissioner is prepared to deal on a case-by-case basis with whether certain uses then become pre-existing non-conforming.

Jonathan Simpson’s advice was that restricting use of certain categories of animal species in labs (such as for example non-human primates) is not incompatible with existing law.

Second, Carol Levin led a discussion on outstanding issues and questions regarding the current draft Lab Subcommittee Report.

--Discussed logistics of sending large report with photos, a challenge that was ultimately solved.

--p. 4 Subcommittee agreed to retain findings language that, with proposed use limitations and regulatory oversight provisions, laboratory research uses would not pose a “material” risk to public health and safety.

--retained one reference to Dr. Jett by name (he had met with and advised Subcommittee). Understood that report references to Director of Public Health role in future would be Dr. Jett's successor.

--Cliff Brown will endeavor to see where Bulfinch slide deck sourced certain market data being referred to so that report can attribute.

--discussion of what lab animals to allow in Brookline laboratory research uses. Subcommittee members present concurred that proposed bylaw should prohibit warm-blooded mammals of the type regulated by USDA Animal Welfare Act regulations (ie prohibit non-human primates as well as the range of other warm-blooded mammals so regulated). Bylaw would allow use of other species such as lab-bred mice and rats, fish that are not covered by the USDA regulations. Subcommittee will ask Marilyn Newman to revise Regulatory Concept Outline accordingly.

--discussed clarifying report body to include similar language to that in zoning section of Concept Outline re "due to dimensional limitations...." (Town Meeting actions to revise other zoning provisions would be necessary before any particular lab development could proceed.)

--discussed putting up front the observation that opportunities for conversion of existing properties in Brookline to life science uses are limited.

Kara Brewton rejoined meeting. Kara noted that still waiting for Fire Chief to confirm that he has no issues with Subcommittee zoning and regulatory proposals. This can be clarified before report goes to Select Board.

Administrative Matters - Subcommittee Tasks and Process Remaining

Monday night 9/13/21 EDAB to discuss full report.

Tuesday am 9/14/21 Subcommittee meeting to discuss and incorporate any EDAB feedback and to review draft powerpoint that will be used for public meeting presentation on 9/29/21.

Paul will ensure that public meeting notice is broadly distributed.

Discussion of logistics of powerpoint and outline of subject matter for public meeting presentation. After Tuesday am meeting, Cliff and Carol will finish up powerpoint.

Minutes

Subcommittee members present voted to unanimously approve minutes from last two (August 3 and 25, 2021) Subcommittee meetings.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 AM.