

Ashland Board of Health  
Meeting Minutes  
June 30, 2021  
Joint Meeting with Select Board  
(During Select Board Meeting)

*Ronald Etskovitz, Chair*  
*Rajit Gupta, Health Agent/Director*

*Diane Mortensen, Vice Chair*  
*Barbra Sekesogundu Simon, Clerk*  
*Bernadette Lunkuse, Member*

**Members Present Via Zoom Meeting:**

Ron Etskovitz, Diane Mortensen, Barbra Sekesogundu Simon and Bernadette Lunkuse

**Others Present:**

Rajit Gupta, Board of Health Agent/Director  
Michael Herbert, Town Manager  
Ashland Select Board Members  
Ed Hart, Resident  
John Byrnes, Resident  
Rajaraman Krishnan, Resident

**Call Meeting to Order**

Mr. Etskovitz called the joint meeting with the Select Board to order on June 30, 2021, at 7:24 pm.

**Joint Interview with Select Board and appoint Board of Health Member to vacated position of KG Narayana**

Joe Magnani, Select Board Chair, explained that the joint meeting with the two Boards was called to interview Rajaraman Krishnan and John Byrnes, candidates interested in filling the position on the Board of Health, vacated by KG Narayana.

Rajaraman “Ram” Krishnan introduced himself and explained that he is a scientist by training and moved to Ashland seven years ago. He held several professional positions, including a neuroscience research position for 10 years at the Whitehead Institute at MIT. Mr. Krishnan expressed his interest in the Board of Health, specifically understanding and working on developing appropriate COVID-19 precautions for large groups to improve safety.

John “Jay” Byrnes introduced himself and said that he and his family have lived in Ashland since 1997. He explained that he has a degree in neuroscience and has worked in academia and in the pharmaceutical biotech sector. In 2010, he completed a master’s degree and a second post-doctorate in neuro- and clinical psychology with the Dept. of Mental Health and heads Metrowest Neuropsychology in Westborough. Mr. Byrnes spoke about his experience volunteering in mental health clinics, and his interest in the Board of Health.

Members of both Boards noted that both candidates had excellent credentials, they thanked them for applying for the position and hoped the candidate that is not appointed stays involved with the community.

Both candidates indicated that they have not attended a Board of Health meeting, nor have they held a volunteer position in Ashland, however, Mr. Byrnes said he worked with the Dementia Friendly group. Both candidates said they would participate in the next election to secure a Board of Health three-year term position, and they understood the time commitment required to be a productive Member of the Board.

Diane Mortensen made a motion to appoint John Byrnes to the Board of Health for a term to end May 2022. This motion was seconded by Yolanda Greaves, with a vote of Greaves-aye, Kinsman-aye, Mitchell-aye, Scherer-no, Magnani -aye, Lunkuse-no, Sekesogundu-Simon-no, Mortensen-aye, and Etskovitz-aye; 6-3-0.

**Adjournment**

Ms. Mortensen made a motion to adjourn the Board of Health meeting. This motion was seconded by Ms. Sekesogundu-Simon, with a vote of 4-0-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

ASHLAND BOARD OF HEALTH  
DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT THE 6/30/2021 MEETING  
(All items stored in the Board of Health files unless otherwise noted)

1. Talent Bank Forms; John Byrnes, Rajaraman Krishnan
2. A recording of the meeting is available at [WACATV.com](http://WACATV.com)