



Town of Trumbull

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2022 TRUMBULL REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

LAUREL ANDERSON, CHAIRMAN
MARK BLOCK
ALISSA HALL
TOM KELLY
JEAN RABINOW
TRACY VONICK

2022 Trumbull Redistricting Committee Meeting

Monday, January 31, 2022, 5:30 p.m.

Via Zoom

AGENDA

2022 Trumbull Redistricting Committee Meeting

Jan 31, 2022 5:30 PM

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85266941075?pwd=NjhySVZIWVJzbTJ1RzhZZ1FEbWRSZz09>

Webinar ID: 852 6694 1075

Password: 464998

Join by telephone: (312) 626-6799 or (833) 548-0282 (Toll Free) /

Webinar ID: 852 6694 1075

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Public Comment
5. Approval of Jan 13 and Jan 20 2022 meeting minutes
6. New Business
 - a. Review new district revision options created by Richard White
 - b. Discuss and agree on document/data requirements and any other information/clarifications needed by the committee.
 - c. Determine focus of next meeting
7. Old Business
8. Adjournment

Next meeting – Thursday February 3, 2022

Town of Trumbull
2022 Trumbull Redistricting Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2022 – 5:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting – Zoom Videoconferencing

A regularly scheduled meeting of the 2022 Trumbull Redistricting Committee of the Town of Trumbull was held via videoconferencing on Thursday, January 20, 2022.

Attendance

Members Present: Laurel Anderson, Committee Chairman
Jean Rabinow, Democratic Registrar of Voters
Tracy Vonick, Republican Registrar of Voters
Alissa Hall, Town Council District 3
Tom Kelly, Elector
Mark Block, Elector

Members Absent:

None.

Vicki A. Tesoro –First Selectman
Steven Earley – Expert Volunteer
Richard White – Expert Volunteer
Dan Schopick – Town Attorney
William Chin – Director of Information Technology
Gia Mentillo – Committee Clerk

Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Opportunity for Public Comment

None.

Approval of Jan 13, 2022 Meeting Minutes

MOTION MADE (Kelly), seconded (Vonick) to postpone the approval of the January 13, 2022 Meeting Minutes to the January 24, 2022 meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Vote: 6-0 **Motion Carried**

New Business

Chairman Anderson introduced expert volunteers Richard White and Steven Earley, invited to present pertinent census and voter data as well as provide an overview of the redistricting process and terminology.

Review of Pertinent Data by Invited Guests

Richard White shared his screen to present a PowerPoint presentation he prepared for the Committee. He began by providing an overview of pertinent census information including terminology, data sources, and spatial considerations. In particular, he distinguished between a

census tract and census block, noting that a census block is the smallest unit of measurement used by the U.S. Census which cannot not be divided by district lines under any circumstances. It was also clarified that, in this context, population refers to the entirety of the population as opposed to solely considering registered voters.

White then offered a review of the existing district layout in Trumbull. He stated that, though Trumbull has grown by approximately 800 residents since the last redistricting committee convened, the existing districts are still roughly equal in population size. However, he pointed out that, because house district boundaries were recently adjusted by the State legislature, there are currently several split voting districts in Trumbull, meaning a local municipal district could be intersected by a multiple State house districts.

Richard White then highlighted prospective geographic and numerical challenges the Committee is likely to encounter in their attempts to redefine district boundaries, specifically referring to two elongated census blocks at the center of Trumbull.

Overview of Redistricting Process in Trumbull

Steven Earley began by encouraging the Committee to visit the U.S. Census website. He stated that his role is to provide technical support to the Committee, affording a better understanding of the available data sources and effectively facilitating their decision making process. Earley then provided a brief overview of the redistricting process, noting that the Committee will have to create a written description of the newly curated boundaries for submission to the State. Once the state has updated their records accordingly, the Trumbull Registrar Office can then implement the changes at the town level.

Chairman Anderson asked whether Mr. Earley had assisted the former redistricting committee in compiling the written description of the new district boundaries. Earley confirmed that he reviewed the 2012 Trumbull Redistricting Committee's draft description and provided feedback.

Discussion of / Agreement on Document / Data Requirements

Richard White explained that the Committee would need to account for Trumbull's prisoner population based on the State OPM criteria which he used to determine that there are 15 prisoners in 15 different census blocks throughout Trumbull. He explained that the Committee could account for those individuals utilizing one of two methods: (1) by adding the prisoner population to the total population from the start, or (2) by adding the prisoner population at the end of the process as it is unlikely to significantly impact population distribution amongst districts. Rabinow voiced support for the first of the two methods.

Vonick asked White if it was possible to provide the Committee with an interactive map which they can alter and assess district boundaries in real time. White gave an example of to what extent he would be able to do that.

Vonick stated he would like the Committee to try to limit the number of split voter districts to two which Rabinow voiced agreement with as she would like to minimize voter confusion and the need for multiple ballots per district.

Kelly voiced agreement and added that he would like to minimize the number of residents having to change districts as a result of this redistricting process.

Vonick proposed that the Committee start the redistricting process by first considering where house district boundaries fall within Trumbull and working outward from those sections of town to most effectively limit split districts.

Rabinow voiced support for this, adding that she would prefer to keep the districts as compact as possible as it limits disparities in accessing resources. She stated that sticking to the existing district boundaries should not be prioritized over creating a more effective layout. Vonick and Anderson voiced agreement.

Chairman Anderson proposed that the Committee consider utilizing natural boundaries to distinguish districts in an attempt to minimize voter confusion. Vonick voiced support for this, noting that such a consideration should not take precedence over other factors discussed.

The Committee requested that Richard White utilize the parameters discussed throughout the meeting to attempt to draft a 7 district map in which each district has roughly equal population, the number of split districts is limited, and the spatial extent of each district is kept as compact as possible.

White asked the Committee whether any legislation specified a percent deviation regarding obtaining equal population for each district. Chairman Anderson pointed to the guidelines of “one person, one vote.” Atty. Schopick stated that there is no expectation of the numbers being exactly equal. Vonick voiced a preference for a maximum deviation of 5%. Rabinow stated that, according to the League of Woman Voters’ Redistricting Specialist, the informal guidelines at the state level dictated an allowance of up to 10% deviation. However, she voiced agreement with Vonick regarding a 5% maximum.

White reviewed with the Committee how he planned to form the requested draft, and the Committee agreed with the proposed approach.

Other Information and Points of Clarification

Chairman Anderson asked the Committee if there is any information they would like her to garner for them prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting. Block requested a copy of the 2012 Trumbull Redistricting Committee Report.

Old Business

None.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 6:44p.m. by Block and seconded by Rabinow. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gia Mentillo
2022 Trumbull Redistricting Committee Clerk

Town of Trumbull
2022 Trumbull Redistricting Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2022 – 5:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting – Zoom Videoconferencing

A regularly scheduled meeting of the 2022 Trumbull Redistricting Committee of the Town of Trumbull was held via videoconferencing on Thursday, January 13, 2022.

Attendance

Members Present: Laurel Anderson, Committee Chairman
Jean Rabinow, Democratic Registrar of Voters
Tracy Vonick, Republican Registrar of Voters
Alissa Hall, Town Council District 3
Tom Kelly, Elector
Mark Block, Elector

Members Absent: None.

Also Present: Vicki A. Tesoro –First Selectman
Dan Schopick – Town **Attorney**
William Chin – Director of Information Technology

Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Opportunity for Public Comment

None.

New Business

Discussion of Structure of Committee Work and Final Report

Chairman Anderson read the Charge of the 2022 Trumbull Redistricting Committee (TRC) as pre-described in the TC29-22 document on January 6, 2022.

The Chairman stated that there are several guidelines from the 2020 TRC which the 2022 TRC is expected to utilize. She then shared the itemized guidelines with committee members, asking that they vote to support or oppose the guidelines. The Committee then did so after a brief explanation of each item and subsequent conversation during which the following points were made: (1) Rabinow stated that new regulations dictate that the Committee exclude incarcerated felons from the population totals when considering the size of districts; and (2) Atty. Schopick noted that the March 28th is a hard deadline based on the dates of subsequent meetings for which the final redistricting document is required.

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MOTION MADE (Block), seconded (Vonick) to accept the Guidelines #1-8 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Vote: 6-0 **Motion Carried**

Kelly suggested that the Committee add a guideline stating that they will utilize a 7 district structure. She noted that in order to utilize any other structure the Committee would need to seek a 2/3 approval from the Town Council to do so, for which there is not enough time.

Vonick voiced opposition to this as he would prefer not to limit the Committee to a specific structure. The Chairman stated that all districts must have the same number of representatives, noting that Trumbull has 21 representatives which necessitates the town be broken into 1, 3, or 7 districts to afford equal representation.

MOTION MADE (Block), seconded (Vonick) to use 3 or 7 districts for district structure. The motion failed.

Vote: 2-4 (Rabinow, Kelly, Anderson, and Hall) Motion Failed

MOTION MADE (Rabinow), seconded (Kelly) to use 7 districts for district structure. The motion carried.

Vote: 4 - 0 (Vonick and Block Abstained) Motion Carried

Committee Clerk

The Chairman asked that Committee members send her any suggestions they may have regarding possible clerks for the committee.

Expert Volunteers

Chairman Anderson stated that the 2020 TRC previously utilized two expert volunteers to aid them in their redistricting efforts, Steve Early and Richard White. The Chairman then shared Steve Early's CV with the Committee and explained his role in the 2020 TRC.

MOTION MADE (Block), seconded (Rabinow) to invite Steve Early to support the 2022 Trumbull Redistricting Committee as an expert volunteer. The motion carried unanimously.

Vote: 6-0 Motion Carried

Subsequently, the Chairman shared Richard White's CV with the Committee and explained his role in the 2020 TRC.

Block shared his opposition to this as he would prefer invite someone with a fresh perspective and not previously involved with any TRC.

MOTION MADE (Rabinow), seconded (Hall) to invite Richard White to support the 2022 Trumbull Redistricting Committee as an expert volunteer. The motion carried.

Vote: 5-1 (Block) Motion Carried

The Chairman encouraged members to send her additional suggestions for expert volunteers.

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Kelly also noted that he would like the Committee to work toward obtaining a seventh member.

Establish Meetings Schedule

Chairman Anderson stated that the 2022 TRC is mandated to follow Freedom of Information regulations and briefly explained what that entails. She noted that, if the Committee hopes to meet twice a week and conform to the aforementioned regulations, then they will have to meet on Mondays and Thursdays. The Chairman then shared a list of proposed dates and times for the 2022 TRC virtual meeting for which she already confirmed availability with the IT department.

MOTION MADE (Vonick), seconded (Rabinow) to accept the proposed meeting dates and times for the 2022 Trumbull Redistricting Committee as listed. The motion carried unanimously.

Vote: 6-0 **Motion Carried**

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 6:45p.m. by Rabinow and seconded by Block. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gia Mentillo
2022 Trumbull Redistricting Committee Clerk