TRUMBULL ETHICS COMMISSION
HEARING IN PUBLIC

November 17, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
VIA ZOOM

REVISED AGENDA

Join the meeting online:
https://zoom.us/j/97085398940?pwd=bE1WZ3JLWVBFM1J5OVdkZnQyUjMvQT09
Webinar ID: 970 8539 8940
Password: 526139

Join by telephone:
(312) 626-6799 or (833) 548-0276 (Toll Free)
Webinar ID: 970 8539 8940

I. To approve Meeting Minutes of October 5, 2020.

II. To consider Complaint #1-2020 at a Hearing in Public.

III. Such other matters as may properly be brought before the Commission.

Attachments/Exhibits:

1. Complaint #1-2020
2. TEC Letter to Respondent of Finding of Probable Cause
3. Transcript of May 9, 2020 Meeting of the 2020 Trumbull Redistricting Committee
4. Clip of Meeting of the 2020 Trumbull Redistricting Committee – May 9, 2020
   • Redistricting Committee 05 09 20 Part 1 of 2:
     https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PxWitUNIYB8&t=1s
     o Clip begins at 21:12 and ends at 25:54.
5. Entire Meeting of the 2020 Trumbull Redistricting Committee – May 9, 2020
   • Redistricting Committee 05 09 20 Part 1 of 2:
     https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PxWitUNIYB8&t=1s
   • Redistricting Committee 05 09 20 Part 2 of 2:
     https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I3VC5x_xRmc

Thomas E. Lee
Chairman

Dated: October 20, 2020
I am submitting an Ethics Complaint against Mr. Tony Scinto for defamatory comments that he made about me during the Saturday, May 9, 2020 public meeting of the 2020 Trumbull Redistricting Committee.

Mr. Scinto has made similar comments at prior public meetings; however, this is the first time that his comments were either captured on community television, recorded in the official minutes, or written about in the local news.

I request that Mr. Scinto's comments be removed from official video and minutes. I also request that Mr. Scinto retract his comments and offer me a public apology before either the Trumbull Town Council or the 2020 Trumbull Redistricting Committee.

Under Section 2-523, Applicability of the Trumbull Code of Ethics, Mr. Scinto is an elected Town official of the Trumbull Town Council and an appointed Town official of the 2020 Trumbull Redistricting Committee. He represents District 2 on the Town Council and is the Republican appointee to the Redistricting Committee.

Under Section 2-524, Standards of service of the Trumbull Code of Ethics, Mr. Scinto violated sub-section (a) by failing to discharge his duties conscientiously, impartially and to the best of his ability, placing the good of the Town above any personal or partisan considerations.

He also violated sub-section (d) by failing to conduct himself with propriety, discharge his duties impartially and fairly, or make any effort toward attaining and maintaining the highest standards of performance.

Under Section 2-526, Treatment of public of the Trumbull Code of Ethics, Mr. Scinto violated sub-section (a) by failing to treat me in a courteous manner and sub-section (c) by failing to treat me with either tact or courtesy during his comments.

Furthermore, under Section 11, Standards of Conduct for Members of the Council of the Trumbull Town Council Rules of Procedure, Mr. Scinto violated paragraph 2 by failing to follow the Code of Ethics of the Town of Trumbull and by failing to treat me in a fair manner.

Please refer to the Trumbull Community Television recording: https://vod.trumbullps.tv/CablecastPublicSite/show/3748
Starting at approximately minute 21 and continuing for a few minutes, Mr. Scinto begins to talk about my skill as a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) professional and claims to have been waiting for "payback". He continues to claim that I am both a "hack" and "no good for the town".

Mr. Scinto also claims that I published a map on the internet showing false data and that this map somehow caused his insurance agent to contact him concerned that there is a river next to his house.

All of Mr. Scinto's comments and claims about me, my work, and the volunteer work that I have done for the Town of Trumbull are false and without merit.

As a GIS professional with over 27 years of experience, my reputation and standing within my profession are exemplary. I have worked at all levels of spatial data creation, analysis, and presentation within a variety of industries and across multiple domains. One common thread throughout my career has been my work with hydrologic and flood datasets.

As a volunteer for the Town of Trumbull, I was appointed to the original GIS Study Group by First Selectman Ray Baldwin and am currently a member of the Trumbull Land Acquisition Committee. I have created spatial analysis and cartographic presentations for many boards and commissions over the years, including Planning and Zoning, Conservation Commission, and the Nature and Arts Center. I have helped install and configure desktop mapping software and various mapping services for town employees. I have also helped neighborhood organizations with a very technical analysis of the proposed Cell Tower on Edison Avenue and demographic neighborhood study of the Fuel Cell in Nichols.

As an advocate for the Town of Trumbull's new Geographic Information System, I created a series of teaching materials and explained mapping and spatial analysis to multiple elementary and middle school classrooms. I have also created map and compass, geocaching, and letterboxing courses at the Nature Center and Old Mine Park and have worked with multiple Boy Scout and Girl Scout units.

I created the map that Mr. Scinto presents during the 2020 Trumbull Redistricting Committee Meeting. If I recall correctly, it was an early draft and one of a series of maps that I created for Planning and Zoning and the Conservation Commission showing flood and related hydrologic layers in the town's new GIS system at that time. The map depicts Flood Hazard Areas and related features in one of the more flood prone areas of Trumbull within the lower Pequannock River watershed. The legend shows a mixture of Regulatory Floodway, 1.0% Annual Flood Risk, 0.2% Annual Flood Risk, and related data from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other sources.

While I acquired the data being presented, chose the cartographic presentation, and created the map, I did not create or edit the underlying data that is being displayed.
I have attached two sample maps for your review:

- The first sample shows a map captured from the Town of Trumbull GIS website which is hosted by the Greater Bridgeport Regional Council (GBRC), CT Metro COG.
  https://metrocog.mapxpress.net/Trumbull

- The second sample shows a map captured from the FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL) Viewer.
  https://hazards-fema.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8b0adb51996444d4879338b5529aa9cd&extent=-73.23449725143466,41.22688204317486,-73.20484274856523,41.24301849078363

While the cartographic presentation differs in all three maps, each map is showing the same underlying data that was used to create the map that Mr. Scinto is referencing.

I have tried to follow the process under Section 2-550, Case procedure of the Trumbull Code of Ethics to the best of my ability. Please feel to reach out to me directly with any questions or clarification.

Respectfully submitted, 5/28/2020:

Richard W. White
169 Church Hill Road
Trumbull, CT 06611
203-561-6045 (m)
rww@waldengeographic.com

State of Connecticut
County of Fairfield ss. Trumbull (Town/City)

Subscribed and sworn before me this 25th day of May, 2020.

Signature of Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 10/31/2023

Printed name of Notary Public
June 15, 2020

Mr. Tony Scinto
32 Lindberg Drive
Trumbull, CT 06611

Re: Ethics Complaint #1-2020

Dear Mr. Scinto:

Enclosed please find a copy of Verified Complaint #1-2020 dated May 28, 2020.

The Trumbull Ethics Commission has determined, pursuant to Article V, Section D of the Code of Ethics of the Town of Trumbull, that it has jurisdiction in the above entitled matter.

At its meeting of June 11, 2020, the Commission found probable cause that the Respondent, Tony Scinto, violated the Trumbull Code of Ethics as stated in the Complaint. A hearing in public will be held on the Complaint at a time and place to be determined.

At that time, you or your attorney shall be entitled to present defenses, proofs and witnesses.

Inquiries may be directed to Attorney James Nugent, counsel for the Commission.

Very truly yours,

Thomas E. Lee
Chairman, Trumbull Ethics Commission

TEL: bk
Enclosure

Rev. 8/02
Transcript of a portion of the May 9, 2020 meeting of the 2020 Trumbull Redistricting Committee

The meeting is available on TCTV’s YouTube page in two parts. (TCTV’s main viewing page is not functioning due to the Video on Demand server being down.)

https://youtu.be/PxWitUNYB8
https://youtu.be/13VC5x_xRmc

Begin transcript at 21:12

Tony Scinto: Well, since you opened up the door about skill, okay, let’s talk about the person who drew this map. I’ve been waitin’ a long time for payback on this one. Okay? This is the same guy who drew this map [holds up map].

Tom Kelly: Can you hold on one second, Tony.

Tony Scinto: No no no no, I’m talk-- no, I’m talking now. Be quiet. Okay?

Tom Kelly: You can’t, you can’t--

Tony Scinto: I’m talking!

Tom Kelly: You can’t talk about--

Tony Scinto: I’ve got it right here! Tom, look!

Tom Kelly: That’s not appropriate decorum.

Tony Scinto: No, you see this? This is the guy who drew this, this is Richard White, who drew this map of my house, put a river next to it, okay, and then he put it on the Internet. And then my insurance guy called me and says, why is there a river next to your house? This is the same guy! Okay? The same guy. You trust this guy? I don’t.

Tom Kelly: Yes, I certainly do.

Tony Scinto: I don’t. I’ve got the evidence right here, Tom, look!

Tom Kelly: You can’t—

Tony Scinto: You wanna see it?

Tom Kelly: You can’t talk at a town meeting—

Tony Scinto: This is decorum! No!

Tom Kelly: About payback. That’s just not appropriate.

Tony Scinto: No, this guy’s, this guy’s, this guy’s no good for the town, he’s a hack. Okay? He’s nothing but a hack.
Laurel Anderson: Tony, may I — may I—

Tony Scinto: I've had enough of this guy, for ten years I've been listening about, the the the lines drawn, who did what wrong, who's blaming who, instead of just, it seems some people want to move backwards and some people want to move forward.

Laurel Anderson: Okay, Tony—

Tony Scinto: It seems Tom, you’re in the backwards, moving backwards time. Okay?

Laurel Anderson: Tony, so, we have a map in front of us, and I have—this is Laurel, by the way—I have been requesting from all of you, bring—bring me what you have. I don't care who it's from, I mean I do, hopefully it’s a skilled map, a well thought out map, but I have asked several times, I think at almost every meeting, um, for people to bring us what you have. So this is what I was able to come up with, um, from a volunteer. I would be very happy to see, uh, an alternative if you have one. So if you can come up with one, we now have a little bit more time, and we’ll be able to go back, and—and compare them and see where perhaps it makes more sense. Um, but, you know, please—please do that if—if you can, excuse me. (Coughs.) If you can, but um, I think it is probably not wise to denigrate someone at a public meeting. Um, so, um, you know, uh, but in any event—

Tony Scinto: You know, Laurel, you know Laurel, you know what, that’s true, okay? And I’m not dis—I’m not going to disagree with you on that. But I've been denigrated, okay, I've been lied about, and then I've got stuff here that I've been sitting on for decades, about, uh, I mean, the guy put a map on an Internet of my house and then posted on the Internet, and the insurance guy calls me and he goes why is there a river next to your house? I go well, I don’t know. I looked at the map and I go who drew this? And then I called Richard White and he goes, oh, I was just joking around. Oh really? Really Richard, you were joking around? And then I get the maps from him, and I'm like, are you kidding me? And then we’re using maps, you know forget about, that you got to wait for the Census, you know I agree with, I agree with we should wait for the Census, but I know you guys want to move through on this process, so I’m trying to be as best I can is look at the map.

Laurel Anderson: Okay, so—

Tony Scinto: This whole thing was about voter turnout, and the representation, like Tom said. And—and driving times. But, if you’re gonna—

Laurel Anderson: There were several issues.

Tony Scinto: Listen, I guarantee you, if you went with that map right now, and you went to go vote, in District 7, at the next municipal election, you’ll have less than a thousand people show up to vote. That’s just my prediction. Because if you go back in time, when I was in District 7, if you got 1,200 people to show up, at a municipal election in District 7, going back to 2007 when I was standing there, okay, you were lucky. I have the numbers. Okay? And that's why I don't understand, they got more people, this area has become more of rentals, for college students.

Laurel Anderson: So, Tony, I’m going to ask you again, how would you suggest, then, changing the map? I mean, I—
Tony Scinto: Well, again, we’re change—again, I understand, listen, the best way to do it is, like, what Bill’s—you need to wait until the Census is done by you guys are not going to do that. So, again, I’m only one person.

End transcript at 25:54.
Pequonnock River — Flood Hazard — Trumbull, CT
Visible Wetlands are topological features visible from the 2010 Aerial Photography.

Wetland and Farmland Soils

Data Sources

Wetland and Farmland soil classifications are from the State of Connecticut’s Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).

Soil geography is from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Soil Survey Geography (SSURGO) dataset.

Visible Wetlands are topological features visible from the 2010 Aerial Photography.

http://www.ct.gov/dep/site/default.asp
Where is Middlebrook Elementary School?

http://goo.gl/xhU2Lx

Public Access Website

Points of Interest
- Town Facility
- School
- Park
- Church
- Business Area
- Stream
- Business Area
- Stream - Int
- Hydro (Line)
- Hydro (Poly)
- Water
- Wetlands
- Dam
- Dock
- Road
- Contour (50)
- Building
- Building (Const)
- Mobile Home

Trumbull GIS
Trumbull GIS is the Town of Trumbull, CT's Geographic Information System administered by the Town Engineering and Tax Assessor's Departments. Through Trumbull GIS, the town has created a comprehensive, townwide database of geospatial information to serve the citizens of Trumbull.

Aerial Photography was flown in April 2010, planimetric and elevation features were extracted during 2010, and Tax Parcels were extracted from existing paper maps in early 2011.

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Public Access Website
http://goo.gl/7RCZzG
The 2020 Trumbull Redistricting Committee meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Laurel Anderson

Members present: Laurel Anderson  
Tom Kelly  
Kevin Shively  
Tony Scinto

Also present: First Selectman Vicki Tesoro  
Anthony D’Aquilla  
Stephen Lemoine

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

No public comment.

New Business

- Establish broad and specific structure of committee work and final report

Ms. Anderson read from the Town Council’s resolution TC28-34, which created the Committee, as follows:

The … Committee shall consist of five members comprising the two Registrars of Voters, two Town Council members, one from each political party, and one elector of the Town of Trumbull;

The said Committee shall recommend to the Town Council a redistricting plan comprising voting districts of substantially equal populations, including the specific boundary lines of each of those districts;

The said Committee shall hold its organizational meeting no later than March 20, 2020; and

The said Committee shall render its final report to the Council no later than May 4, 2020.

She proposed that the Committee begin by calling experts in redistricting, geographic information systems (GIS), mapping, and legal considerations, then review the data and other presented information, and then write the Committee’s report or reports (majority and minority if so voted) for the Town Council. Ms. Anderson proposed asking Richard White, head of research and development at LightBox, to be the first expert witness.
During discussion, Committee member Scinto presented a printout of the Town’s 2010 census-block map and will try to get another version with street names overlaid. The committee will seek advice on whether or not census blocks had to be kept intact and the impact of one-man-one-vote on the number and size of districts. The committee discussed whether or not another person could be added to the Committee to fill in for Registrar Bill Holden, who resigned his appointment before the Committee’s first meeting. On this last question, Ms. Anderson referred the Committee to its charge, and said that it appeared that the only way to make the substitution would be for the Town Council to amend the resolution as the position of Registrar, and not an individual, was appointed. The Committee members also noted that with the Town Charter requiring that the Town Council be composed of 21 members, the only way to insure that each district have the same number of Council representatives is to have 1, 3 or 7 districts; and there will probably be no way to avoid having a split district on the east side of town in what is now District 2, for 122 and 123 State Representative districts.

- Establish number of meetings to be held and meeting dates, times and location

After discussion, the Committee agreed unanimously to the following schedule: all meetings to be held on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.; expert witnesses to be invited for March 4 and March 11; data review to start March 18, with follow-up meetings April 1, April 8, April 15 and April 22 if necessary. Ms. Anderson will try to reserve the Long Hill Room at Town Hall for these meetings.

Adjournment

On a motion by Tom Kelly, seconded by Kevin Shively, Laurel Anderson adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Rabinow
Clerk of the Committee