

**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