

Town of Trumbull
2022 Trumbull Redistricting Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 31, 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 Monday, January 31, 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, Trumbull First Selectman
Richard White, Expert Volunteer
Steve Early, Expert Volunteer
Stephen Lemoine
Dan Schopick, Town Attorney
William Chin, Director of Information Technology
Gia Mentillo, Committee Clerk

Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Opportunity for Public Comment

None.

Approval of Jan 13, 2022 and Jan 20, 2022 Meeting Minutes

MOTION MADE (Block), seconded (Rabinow) to approve the January 13, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Vote: 6-0 **Motion Carried**

MOTION MADE (Block), seconded (Rabinow) to approve the January 20, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Vote: 6-0 **Motion Carried**

New Business

Anderson introduced Stephen Lemoine as future Committee member, yet to be formally appointed. He thanked the Committee for having him, noting that he prepared for the meeting by reviewing previous meeting minutes and the current map being discussed.

Review New District Revision Options from Richard White

White began by sharing his screen and reviewing where the Committee left off in the map drafting process on the January 24th meeting which focused around the draft entitled “Plan 1.” White then shared two new drafts he created based off feedback from that meeting.

White shared the first of the two new drafts entitled “Plan 2,” showing a nearly perfect population distribution amongst all 7 voting districts. He explained that Plan 2 shows three split voting districts (districts 4, 6, and 7), each of which is split amongst two house districts. White compared this to Plan 1 which had two split voting districts, one of which was split amongst three house districts. White then compared Plan 2 to Trumbull’s existing voting district layout, highlighting minimal changes to districts 1, 2, 6, and 7, no change in district 3, and significant changes to districts 4 and 5.

White shared the second of the two new drafts entitled “Plan 3,” again showing a nearly perfect population distribution amongst all 7 voting districts. He explained that Plan 3 again shows three split voting districts (districts 4, 5, and 7), each split amongst two house districts. White then compared Plan 3 to Trumbull’s existing voting district layout, noting that this plan entails some level of change to every district with the most occurring in voting district 4, 5, and 6.

Block asked for confirmation that most of the issues encountered in redrawing district lines occurs in the South, West portion of Trumbull. White confirmed this to be true, noting that it is mostly due to the placement of House District boundaries.

White then shared two drafts created based on input directly from Vonick who explained that he encountered issues similar to that of White in the sense that it is extremely difficult to limit the number of split voting districts to two as exemplified by his second draft, entitled “Plan TV2.” While this draft managed to limit the number of split voting districts to two, the geographical extent of each district was significantly altered and the result was very oddly shaped voting districts. Rabinow stated that she would prefer having three split voting districts with more compact geographical extents rather than a scenario where there are oddly shaped districts. Chairman Anderson and Block voiced agreement with this. Block stated that it seems having three split voting districts affords more options and opportunities than attempting to limit the Town to two split districts.

Block stated that he would like to utilize Plan 3 as presented by Richard White for the basis of future conversations. Rabinow, Vonick, and Block voiced support for this.

Discussion of / Agreement on Document / Data Requirements

Chairman Anderson reminded the Committee that it has been common practice in the past for them to work to limit the number of streets split into multiple voting districts (i.e. one side of the street is in one district while the other is in another). She stated that she would like the Committee to work to limit such instances to only main roads in Town. The Committee voiced support for this but acknowledged it may not be possible in all instances.

Rabinow stated that, where split districts occur, she would like to keep the split as balanced as possible. Meaning, if a voting district has two house districts within it, then each house district should have as close to equal population to the other as possible.

Other Information and Points of Clarification

The Committee clarified that they will be reviewing the draft map entitled Plan 3 prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting where it will be utilized as a basis for discussion.

Determine Focus of Next Meeting

Chairman Anderson asked if it would be helpful to the Committee to have a hard copy of the Plan 3 to review prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting or if they'd prefer a digital copy.

The Committee voiced that they would like to receive hard copies. Earley said that he could have hard copies to Tall Hall by the following day (2/1/2022).

Block asked if the copies could include information on points of interest in Town, noting schools and housing developments. White stated that he would include schools on the map to be shared.

The Chairman stated that once a rough draft is agreed upon by the Committee, then they can begin looking at more detailed information to further refine the new district boundaries.

Old Business

None.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 6:36p.m. by Block and seconded by Rabinow. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gia Mentillo
2022 Trumbull Redistricting Committee Clerk