

Town of Trumbull
2022 Trumbull Redistricting Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 28, 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 February 28, 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
Stephen Lemoine, Town Council District 5
Tom Kelly, Elector
Mark Block, Elector

Members Absent: None.

Also Present: Vicki A. Tesoro, Trumbull First Selectman
Richard White, Expert Volunteer
Steven Earley, 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

Public Comment

There was no request to comment from any member of the public.

Approval of Feb. 17, 2022 Meeting Minutes

MOTION MADE (Block), seconded (Rabinow) to approve the February 17, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Vote: 6-0 **Motion Carried**

New Business

Review / Discuss / Approve Final Version of Map Provided by Richard White

Chairman Anderson noted that the newest version of the district map created by Richard White was distributed to the Committee prior to the meeting and asked for comment. Rabinow asked whether or not the Committee intended to keep the red circles highlighting their concerns regarding discrepancies between the Town's and the U.S. Census's data. The Chairman clarified that the circles are meant to work in tandem with the comments drafted by the Committee regarding discrepancies amongst data sources. White stated that he could create two separate maps, one with the circles and one without.

Hall stated it would be beneficial to her and Lemoine to have the aforementioned comments and corresponding map on-hand when discussing the final report with the Town Council. Lemoine seconded this comment.

Chairman Anderson stated that the district map to be included in the Committee's final report would not include the three (3) red circles and asked the Committee if they would like to include the district map with the red circles as an addendum to the final report. Rabinow stated that the map which highlights data concerns has already been shared with the public and included with meeting materials, making it a historical document which can be referred to at any time if deemed necessary. The Committee decided not to include the map with the red circles in their final report.

Earley noted that he would like to see the issue at the intersection of Reservoir Avenue and White Plains Road be rectified with the State and U.S. Census Bureau as it has been a re-occurring point of discussion for three redistricting committees to-date.

Chairman Anderson asked that White prepare two separate maps for the next regularly scheduled meeting, one including the red circles to be used by Hall and Lemoine and one without the circles to be included in the Committee's final report to the Town Council.

Hall informed that she and Lemoine discussed providing the final report to the Town Council prior to their April meeting for which the report is on the Agenda, adding that the intent is to allow each caucus time to review the document and provide necessary feedback prior to the Council voting on the document. White stated that it may not be in the Committee's best interest to provide the final report to the Town Council without someone there to explain and support the document. Chairman Anderson volunteered to join those meetings in addition to the regularly scheduled April Town Council meeting. However, Atty. Schopick clarified that only members of the Town Council can participate in caucus meetings. Kelly voiced concerns for having the document discussed separately amongst individual caucuses as such meetings do not allow for public attendance or comment. Chairman Anderson stated that providing the final report to the Town Council as early as possible would allow for a more thorough discussion and afford Hall and Lemoine time to address initial questions and concerns from the council, adding that she would be in attendance for the April Town Council meeting during which she would be able to further advocate for the report and address any final concerns of council members.

Lemoine stated that there should not be an assumption that he or Hall will be advocating for the report amongst their caucuses. Atty. Schopick stated that if there are varying opinions within the Committee, then a minority report should be created and submitted to the Town Council for consideration in conjunction with the Majority Report being submitted by the 2022 Trumbull

Redistricting Committee. Kelly again voiced concerns for caucuses discussing such reports without the public in attendance. Lemoine stated that there would be a minority report created.

Kelly questioned whether the decision by some committee members to submit a Minority Report was indicative of them having already decided that they do not support the Majority Report, adding that the Committee should consider taking their final vote if that was in fact the case. Block stated that he was not prepared to make a final decision on the report at that time, adding that, regardless of anyone's current positioning, the Committee has an obligation to continue and finalize the process of curating a final report for the Town Council. Block stated though there may not be unanimous support for all the elements of the final report amongst the Committee, they should still put in their best efforts to produce a quality report.

Review / Discuss / Approve Addendum Wording to the Boundary Description List Provided by Steven Earley

Chairman Anderson asked that Rabinow read into the record the proposed addendum to the boundary descriptions as prepared by her in preparation for this meeting. Rabinow read the following addendum aloud:

“1: In the boundary descriptions above the dividing lines between districts run down the middle of the named streets, brooks, and other landmarks. So, for example, when a district five (5) boundary is described in part as “northerly Fairview Avenue” the middle of the Fairview Avenue is the dividing line and all the houses south of that north boundary in the district and all the houses north of that line are in another district, in this case district four (4). 2: The terms northerly, easterly, southerly, and westerly are approximate. For example, the street that is part of a northerly boundary may run east-west, northeast-southwest, southeast-northwest, etc.”

White proposed changing “brooks” to “water ways.” Earley proposed using “water course” or “body of water.” Rabinow stated she would change it to say, “water courses.”

MOTION MADE Rabinow, SECONDED Hall to accept the revised addendum to the boundary descriptors and include it in the Committee's final report. The motion carried unanimously.

7 – 0 Motion Carried

Chairman Anderson asked if the Committee was comfortable voting on the boundary descriptors to be included in the final report. Block stated that he would prefer to vote on the descriptors as part of the vote on the final report rather than conducting a separate vote for the descriptors themselves. Rabinow, Kelly, Lemoine stated that they would be comfortable taking the vote at the time.

MOTION MADE Rabinow, SECONDED Hall to accept the most recent version of the boundary descriptors, as sent out to the Committee in preparation for this meeting, with the aforementioned notation to the bottom of the page. The motion carried. *Vonick abstained.*

5-1 (Lemoine) Motion Carried

Chairman Anderson stated that the Committee would place a vote on the Final Map as presented by Richard White during the next regularly scheduled meeting. Block questioned whether or not it was necessary to vote on the map separately as opposed to including it in the Committee's

final report and, therefore, voting on it in conjunction with said report. Atty. Schopick informed that either approach is acceptable, noting that the Committee may want to take a vote simply to endorse the map although it may be redundant.

Hall asked if the Committee could further discuss any disagreements amongst themselves which have resulted in the creation of a minority report. Rabinow stated it may be best to delay such discussion to the following meeting after there has been time to curate the minority report. Atty. Schopick clarified that the Committee could either make a motion to re-open the vote to approve the boundary descriptors or someone could simply pose a question for discussion, leaving the vote as-is.

Hall asked Lemoine why he voted in opposition to the boundary descriptions. Lemoine stated that a minority report would be coming out.

Review / Discuss / Approve the Revised Draft Report

Chairman Anderson shared her screen to present the newest version of the Committee's final report. She highlighted the areas where she made changes as requested by the Committee during their last regularly scheduled meeting and highlighted areas that are still missing information (particularly the final meeting date of the Committee and the vote to approve the final report).

Additionally, the Chairman asked for clarification as to when Lemoine became an official member of the Committee. Atty. Schopick confirmed the date to be February 7, 2022.

Chairman Anderson asked that White send her the population count for each of the newly proposed voting districts to be included in the final report. She also asked for confirmation that no census block had been split. White confirmed this to be true.

Rabinow asked that a change be made to the first paragraph of page four (4) to state "Registrars of Voters" as opposed to "Registrar of Voters." The Chairman made the change.

White asked if the final report refers to how Trumbull's prisoner population was accounted for in the redistricting process. The Chairman stated that it was not currently part of the document but asked Rabinow to work on the verbiage regarding the Committee's consideration of Trumbull's prisoner population of 15 people.

Block asked that the wording of the Committee's vote on page three (3) be changed, noting that he did not vote in favor of the proposed district "layout" as described but rather on the boundary descriptors. Chairman Anderson stated that she would change the wording of that vote to say "boundary descriptions."

Block stated that, regardless of whether he agrees or disagrees with the final report of the Committee, my view of my role as a member of the Committee was to ensure that what is presented to the Town Council is as complete and accurate as possible based on the majority of the Committee and conforms to CT state statute. Hall stated that she questioned the reasoning for the minority documents to work to get the Committee on the same page and work to rectify any concerns now, noting she did not want to single anyone out.

Other New Business Including New Document / Data Needed for Committee Review

Chairman Anderson asked for requests for documentation. The Committee had no requests.

Block questioned how the Committee would approve minutes if they were not all submitted by the Committee final meeting on March 3rd. Atty. Schopick stated that there will always be one last set of meeting minutes that is not formally approved by any committee, noting that anyone who has any issues of substance can put a not into the Town Council or reach out to Chairman Anderson to rectify the issues.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 6:31p.m. by Block and seconded by Rabinow. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gia Mentillo
2022 Trumbull Redistricting Committee Clerk