



Town of Trumbull

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2020 TRUMBULL REDISTRICTING
COMMITTEE

LAUREL ANDERSON, CHAIRMAN
TOM KELLY
KEVIN SHIVELY
TONY SCINTO

2020 Trumbull Redistricting Committee Zoom On-Line Meeting May 9, 2020 MINUTES

The 2020 Trumbull Redistricting Committee meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Chairperson Laurel Anderson.

Members present: Laurel Anderson
Tom Kelly
Kevin Shively
Tony Scinto

Also present: First Selectman Vicki Tesoro
Town Attorney Daniel Schopick
Kathleen McGannon
Cindy Katske
Steve Earley
Stephen Lemoine

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Minutes

Tom Kelly moved, and Kevin Shively seconded, that the Minutes of the April 16, 2020, Redistricting Committee meeting be approved as submitted; the vote in favor was 3-0, with Laurel Anderson, Tom Kelly and Kevin Shively in favor and Tony Scinto abstaining.

New Deadline for Report to Town Council

Laurel Anderson reported that the Town Council has passed a resolution extending the Committee's reporting deadline to July 9, 2020.

Discuss and Review Maps, Borders, Property Descriptions and Next Steps

Laurel Anderson noted that the Committee now has Richard White's updated computer-printed seven-district map with district borders as originally proposed in 2012, and an amended list of property boundaries that go with the map. In response to a question from Laurel Anderson, Steve Earley told the Committee that the MS Word document that was submitted with today's

agenda contained all of the formerly submitted word-processed property descriptions as modified by, and now therefore including, all the previously-submitted handwritten modifications.

Tony Scinto suggested that a map that also showed state assembly house of representative districts would be helpful.

There was extensive discussion of whether the current map and boundary list met concerns about improving voter turnout, reducing voters' driving times to the polls, and reducing voters' feelings of being inconvenienced by having fewer polling places. Laurel Anderson reminded the Committee members that no matter what the underlying issues may have been, the primary directive that Town Council has given the Committee is to draw districts that have equal population and therefore equal Town Council representation, no matter how many districts the Committee might choose to have, regardless of the effect on turnout in any given district.

Tony Scinto pointed out that there were gaps in the property descriptions between Mulberry and Elliott, and between West Mischa and West Lake roads. At Laurel Anderson's request, the Committee then went through the property boundary descriptions one by one.

In regard to the proposed **District 1**, no one on the Committee had any changes to suggest.

In regard to the proposed **District 2**, Tony Scinto pointed out that there was a problem with the Northerly description because West Mischa Road and West Lake Road do not intersect. Steve Earley suggested that the boundary line could either run along Pinewood Lake or skirt the properties along the Lake's shore, but it was up to the Committee to choose. Kevin Shively said that running the boundary along the Lake shore might put a few houses into proposed District 7; Vicki Tesoro, Laurel Anderson, and Kevin Shively reminded the Committee that whichever line they choose, they cannot break up Census blocks. Kevin Shively noted that keeping the Census block within the District 2 loop would preserve the population totals for both districts, but if the alternative were chosen the houses on West Lake, East Lake, Palmer, and Southgate would go into District 7. It was the unanimous sense of the meeting that part of the District 2 boundary description could read: "the border continues from the end of West Mischa Road, follows the edge of Pinewood Lake until it meets West Lake Road ..." and proceed from there as already written.

In response to questions from Laurel Anderson and Kevin Shively, requesting clarification that the Committee's job was to write the descriptions without breaking up Census blocks, and whether the descriptions could reference the Census blocks by number, Steve Earley said that his only job was to take the descriptions, reproduce the text, and derive map lines from that, and that the text could reference Census blocks and already does so where the description parallels Reservoir Avenue. Tony Scinto reminded the Committee that the verbal descriptions of the boundaries will be what governs, and that the maps are simply tools.

Steve Earley pointed out that further on in District 2, the property description reads: "Westerly: ... Twin Brooks Drive, westerly along the northern border of Twin Brooks Park Ponds along a line perpendicular to the Pequonnock River" but that this part of the description contains no fixed points. He asked the Committee to consider "... Twin Brooks Drive to Brock Road to the Pequonnock River ..." or "... the edge of Twin Brooks Pond to the closest point at the Pequonnock River and then along a perpendicular line ..." or, alternatively, the description could reference the involved Census block.

In regard to the proposed **District 3**, no one on the Committee had any changes to suggest.

In regard to the proposed **Districts 4 and 5**, Steve Earley noted that there is an apparent gap in the description along Park Lane, because Mitchell Avenue and Park Lane don't meet; they terminate at Jane Ryan School. Laurel Anderson asked if there was a problem with the Easterly description referencing the boundary of the 134th state House district; Steve Earley responded that there was no problem as long as that line doesn't cross any Census block borders. Laurel Anderson noted that the language for the District 5 Westerly border needs to mirror the language for the District 4 Northerly border.

In regard to the proposed **Districts 5, 6 and 7**, Tony Scinto asked where Census block 756 should be included, and if Tait's Mill Road was in District 6 or District 7, and whether there should be a mention of Tait's Mill Road in the District 5 or District 7 boundary. In response to a suggestion by Kevin Shively, it was the sense of the meeting that these issues needed clarification. Steve Earley noted that there is an omission in the description of the Northerly border, now described as "... Dayton Road to Asbury Road to Old Coach Lane, ..." but which should be amended to mirror District 3's Southerly border "... Wedgewood Road to Old Coach Lane to Fieldcrest Drive..."

In regard to the proposed **District 7**, Tony Scinto noted that the Southerly border should reference both the Stratford and the Bridgeport town lines, and the Easterly border should reference both the Shelton and Stratford town lines. Steve Earley noted that the description of the District 7 Northerly border should match the District 2 Westerly border, so that there would be no discrepancies. Dan Schopick noted that in the Westerly description, the wording should be "Reservoir Avenue," not "Reservoir Road."

It was the sense of the meeting that the Committee members need a larger map from Steve Earley; Steve Earley suggested that the map could be 3 feet by 4 feet and could include Census blocks, and he volunteered to deliver the new maps to the Committee members' mailboxes. Kevin Shively volunteered to re-write the descriptions to match the map. Several Committee members expressed a strong desire to have Richard White present for the next meeting; Laurel Anderson said she would try to arrange that.

Old Business

There was no other old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjournment

On a motion by Kevin Shively, seconded by Tom Kelly, and agreed to unanimously, Laurel Anderson adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jean Rabinow
Clerk of the Committee