

**Redistricting Committee**  
**February 21, 2012**  
**Minutes**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by First Selectman Timothy M. Herbst with the following members present: William Holden, Jane Aiello, Suzanne Burr Monaco, Vicki Tesoro and Tony Scinto.

Mr. Herbst administered the Oath of Office to Jane Aiello, Vicki Tesoro and Tony Scinto. The Committee's other members had previously been sworn-in.

The First Selectman noted that a redistricting has not been done since 1983. He expressed his faith in the five committee members and stressed the importance of the Committee's charge. He stated that this affects every resident and every voter and asked that the Committee work together without outside influence to develop a plan that is a product of this Committee. He offered the assistance of the Town Attorneys if the Committee should require a legal opinion.

Mr. Herbst called for the election of officers.

Mr. Scinto nominated Bill Holden for Chairman, seconded by Ms. Monaco. Motion passed by acclamation.

Ms. Monaco nominated Ms. Aiello for Vice Chairman, Ms. Tesoro seconded. Motion passed by acclamation.

The Chair provided maps prepared by the Town Engineering Department outlining the State Assembly districts and census blocks. He noted that the charge of the Committee is to follow "one person one vote". He explained that the number of people each Council member should represent is 1,715 people. He emphasized that it is people not voters. Population should be as equal as possible per Council member. He would also like to eliminate as many split districts as practical as the election cost for each district is approximately \$2,000.00. The Committee will have their report finalized for the Town Council by April 2<sup>nd</sup>. He suggested working on proposals for the next Committee meeting.

Ms. Tesoro stated that she and Ms. Aiello, with the help of Richard White, have prepared a plan for discussion. She provided copies to all Committee members.

The Chair informed everyone that the Secretary of State's website has information which might be helpful when working on their proposals. He pointed out that the Council resolution does not stipulate a specific number of districts. He also noted that lines may not divide census blocks.

Ms. Tesoro questioned if the “one person one vote” is covered under State Statutes. She expressed concern that the Committee may consider a plan based on this concept which could result in some districts having more Town Council representatives than others, thereby unequal representation or strength. Ms. Tesoro suggested getting legal advice.

Mr. Holden agreed he would not want to see a big disparity in the number of Council representatives per district, but noted that each member represents 1,715 people and the number per district may not be exact. He stated that he spoke to Ted Bromley from the Secretary of State’s Office who said local districts may be of different size.

Richard White reviewed the map he prepared.

The Committee discussed meeting dates. The next meeting was set for Tuesday, February 28, 2012 at 8:00 p.m.

Ms. Tesoro noted that the resolution posted on the Town Website forming the Committee is not the final resolution passed by the Town Council and should be corrected. She questioned if the Committee’s report will go before a Committee of the Town Council and if a public hearing will be held. She stated that members of the public should have an opportunity to voice their opinion.

Mr. Holden stated that the resolution calls for the plan to be submitted to the Town Council. He explained that the Committee will send their final recommendation to the Chairman of the Town Council; the Council then has until May 16<sup>th</sup> to act on the final plan. The Council’s Chair will decide if the report is sent to a Council Committee for review. He spoke about a public hearing and stated that since this Committee is not making the final decision it would be the Council’s decision whether or not to hold a public hearing.

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m. by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail J. Hanna  
Clerk