

Town of Trumbull
2022 Trumbull Redistricting Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 3, 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, February 3, 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
Steven Earley, 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 5:32 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

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

Approval of Jan 24, 2022 Meeting Minutes

MOTION MADE (Block), seconded (Rabinow) to approve the January 24, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Vote: 6-0 **Motion Carried**

New Business

Chairman Anderson thanked the expert volunteers for the quality and timeliness of their work.

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 during the January 31st meeting, focusing on the draft entitled “Plan 3.”

Vonick proposed the Committee focus the current meeting around obtaining a consensus regarding which of White’s maps they would like to utilize as a basis for subsequent, more detailed discussions and document curation. Rabinow voiced support for this, noting that the Committee should focus future efforts around looking more closely at the newly proposed boundaries and begin creating the descriptors for the Meets and Bounds document.

Discussion of / Agreement on Document / Data Requirements

Chairman Anderson shared her screen, showing the Committee a copy of the 2020 Trumbull Redistricting Committee’s final report entitled “Seven District Plan – Boundary Description,” exemplifying the final work product the Committee is expected to provide to the Town Council which will, in turn, inform the registrar office’s creation of the new voting district map.

Block proposed that, if the Committee is currently in agreement on utilizing the “Plan 3” map provided by White and Earley, then members should divide the proposed districts amongst themselves and begin working on written descriptions of the district boundaries. He noted that this should be done in a hierarchical fashion, and White suggested the hierarchy of street names, named rivers, town lines, house district lines, and then census blocks.

Earley stated that he would be willing to create a rough draft of the written descriptions for the district boundaries as outlined on the “Plan 3” map which the Committee can review and edit. White voiced support for this as he too felt allowing Earley to utilize his software expertise would be a more effective approach. Anderson and Kelly voiced support for this as they recalled a similar approach was taken in the past.

MOTION MADE (Rabinow), seconded (Block) to have Steven Earley create a rough draft of the Meets and Bounds document that is reflective of the boundaries most recently discussed by the Committee and shown in the map most recently provided by White and Earley. The motion carried unanimously.

Vote: 6-0

Motion Carried

MOTION MADE (Vonick), seconded (Block) to amend the previous motion made by Rabinow to “ have Steven Earley create a rough draft of the Meets and Bounds document that is reflective of the district boundaries outlined by the map provided by White and Earley, identified as “February 1, 2022: 8:33am.” The motion carried unanimously.

Vote: 6-0

Motion Carried

White shared his screen and highlighted several areas of concern on the aforementioned map which he felt warranted clarification from the Committee. In particular, he pointed to the intersection of Reservoir Avenue and White Plains Road where a house district boundary (and proposed voting district boundary) transects several parcels on the corner of the intersection rather than continuing along Reservoir Avenue to its terminal.

Vonick suggested adjusting that district line to follow along Reservoir Avenue, noting that it would entail cutting across a census block. Rabinow asked Atty. Schopick whether that would be permissible, and Atty. Schopick stated that he would have to look further into the matter.

Chairman Anderson referred to the “Seven District Plan – Boundary Description” from the 2020 Trumbull Redistricting Committee and clarified that, in the past, the Committee left the transecting boundary as-is.

Other Information and Points of Clarification

Vonick requested that new copies of the “Plan 3” map labelled “February 1, 2022: 8:33am” be distributed to committee members prior to the next meeting in a form which allows them to identify street names. Block voiced support for this request.

Earley stated that he would provide White with a GIS map layer which reflects street names as they are commonly referred to by Trumbull residents (i.e. “Main Street” opposed to “Route 25”). White voiced concerns about creating a printed version of the map that allows for adequate visibility of street names. Block proposed creating a separate print for each of the proposed districts.

Hall asked the Committee whether they felt a need to meet in-person to better evaluate and discuss the newly proposed boundaries. Vonick asked White if he had the ability to transport and present digital information for an in-person meeting as he does for virtual meetings, and White confirmed this to be true. Vonick asked Earley if the conference room in the Public Works Administration Building is a viable location for an in-person meeting. Earley stated that the necessary equipment is there, but is not large enough to allow for social distancing.

Chairman Anderson stated that conducting an in-person meeting would necessitate additional meeting preparations beyond what is currently required for a virtual meeting. Rabinow stated that she would be most comfortable maintaining virtual meetings as there are still health concerns to consider.

Chairman Anderson asked the expert volunteers and committee members whether or not they felt it would be best to cancel the next regularly scheduled meeting planned for February 7, 2022 to allow for adequate time to create and review the requested materials (enlarged maps with street names and the rough draft of the Meets and Bounds document). Expert volunteers voiced concerns about getting materials distributed in time for the February 7th meeting.

MOTION MADE (Vonick), seconded (Block) to cancel the next regularly scheduled meeting for the 2022 Trumbull Redistricting Committee on Monday, February 7, 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

Vote: 6-0

Motion Carried

Determine Focus of Next Meeting

The Committee clarified that the next meeting, scheduled for February 10, 2022, would be spent reviewing and refining the rough draft of written boundary descriptors from Steven Earley.

Chairman Anderson asked participant, Stephen Lemoine if he had any questions or comments prior to the closing of the meeting. Lemoine did not have any comments.

Old Business

None.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 6:22p.m. by Block and seconded by Rabinow. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gia Mentillo
2022 Trumbull Redistricting Committee Clerk