

Town of Trumbull
2022 Trumbull Redistricting Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 10, 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 10, 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 5:35 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

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

Approval of Jan. 24, 2022 and Jan. 31, 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**

MOTION MADE (Block), seconded (Kelly) to approve the January 31, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Vote: 6-0 **Motion Carried**

New Business

Review / Discuss Draft of District Boundary Descriptions Provided by Steven Earley and Suggested Map / Boundary Changes

Richard White shared his screen to present the working map entitled “February 1, 2022: 8:33am.”

Chairman Anderson suggested that, moving forward, the committee take the approach of reviewing the boundaries of 1 to 2 proposed districts per night. She questioned the written description of the proposed boundaries for District 1 where referring to Booth Hill Road. Earley clarified that a small portion of Booth Hill Road runs into Shelton rather than following along the Trumbull Town Line, necessitating that the description be written as-is.

Lemoine shared concerns about all boundary descriptors, stating there is no indication as to what side of the street is being referenced. Earley clarified that the center of the street is always the dividing line. Rabinow stated that the best indicator is the directional information. For example, if Fairview Avenue is the Northerly boundary of District 5, then everyone South of that boundary is in District 5 and everyone North of it is in another district. Lemoine questioned whether that was common knowledge.

Block questioned whether state statutes prohibit more expressive types of boundary descriptions (i.e. North, East rather than North). Rabinow stated that having one directional descriptor for each boundary (i.e. North rather than North, East) is typically the standard in deeds and land records. Vonick agreed and stated he would prefer to keep a single descriptor to better maintain uniformity throughout the document. Earley agreed with this.

Block also asked if there was an option to add a general notation at the end of the Committee’s report to the Town Council to include the aforementioned information from Rabinow regarding interpretation of the boundary descriptors. Vonick voiced support for adding a notation to the document.

Chairman Anderson asked for clarification on the description for District 2 when referring to Country Club Road. Earley clarified that discrepancies between the projections of map layers resulted in graphical issues, noting that historically it was assumed that the Census intended to follow along Country Club Road rather than transect parcels. White confirmed this to be true by referring to the data layer provided by the Census which identified the census edge of the census block as Country Club Road, noting that the same issue was encountered during the last redistricting process. Rabinow supported, stating that previously, the boundary was described as the “census line described as Country Club Road.” Chairman Anderson posited that the Committee include an addendum on their report suggesting to that the Town Council look into correcting graphical discrepancies at the state level.

Vonick asked whether the Committee would consider adjusting the current map to afford more intuitive district boundaries, creating cleaner lines and clearer descriptions. He noted he would be willing to do the work to bring such a proposal to the Committee. Block stated he would be in

support of smoother boundaries, particularly in areas where it eliminates the concerns around graphical disparities.

Rabinow stated that she would consider newly proposed boundaries from Vonick as long as two principals are maintained in the revision process: (1) equal population distribution amongst districts and (2) geographic compactness of districts. However, she noted that there is no issues with having slightly jagged borders. Kelly agreed with this, noting that he would prefer not to make changes unless they are necessary as the current working map has nearly perfect population distribution. Hall agreed with Rabinow and Kelly.

Block stated that he would like to consider Vonick's proposal as the redistricting process traditionally only occurs every 10 years. Lemoine agreed. Kelly agreed that if Vonick, White, and Earley are willing to put in the extra time and effort to bring a new proposal to the Committee, then there is no reason not to hear it.

Determine Focus of Next Meeting / What Documents Are Needed

Chairman Anderson asked that the Committee decide on a final working map next meeting prior to asking Earley to re-write boundary descriptions. Committee voiced agreement for listening to Vonick's proposal and agreeing upon a final working map during the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Anderson stated that the Committee's report is due to the Town Council by March 28, 2022. Meaning the Committee has its final meeting on March 24th.

Lemoine asked if the Town Council could deny the Committee's proposal and, if so, what would happen then. Kelly stated that the Council would then have to determine a new plan to redistrict by their legal deadline. Vonick stated the Council could potentially send the report back to the Committee for revision, but that is highly unlikely.

Block requested a copy of Vonick's newly proposed working map be distributed to the Committee prior to the next meeting. Chairman Anderson confirmed with the Committee that a PDF version would be okay.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 6:53p.m. by Block and seconded by Rabinow. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gia Mentillo
2022 Trumbull Redistricting Committee Clerk