

Town of Trumbull
2022 Trumbull Redistricting Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 14, 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 Monday, February 14, 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
Stephen Lemoine

Members Absent: None.

Also Present: Vicki A. Tesoro, Trumbull First Selectman
Dan Schopick, Town Attorney
William Chin, Director of Information Technology
Gia Mentillo, Committee Clerk

Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

Chairman Anderson introduced Stephen Lemoine as the newest member of the Committee, sworn in on February 7, 2022 by the Town Council, and thanked him for his participation..

Pledge of Allegiance

Opportunity for Public Comment

There was no request for comment from the public.

Approval of Feb. 3, 2022 Meeting Minutes

MOTION MADE (Block), seconded (Rabinow) to approve the February 3, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Vote: 7-0 **Motion Carried**

New Business

Review TV2.2 Maps provided by Richard White and Tracy Vonick

Chairman Anderson shared her screen to present the map drafted by White and Vonick entitled TV2.2, inviting Vonick to provide further explanation.

Vonick first highlighted changes made to the Northwestern border of District 1, at the junction of Districts 1, 3, and 6 (as proposed by map February 1, 2022: 8:33am). He noted an extension to the Western border of District 1 which now continues further North along Route 25 to the intersection of Route 111. Vonick informed that this change moves one census block of 17 people from the District 3 to District 1. Chairman Anderson noted previous comments from White suggesting the same.

Vonick reviewed several other changes made throughout map TV2.2 and their impacts on population distribution. Rabinow stated that the main obligation of the Committee is to obtain districts with equal populations. Vonick estimated a 1% difference in the population distributions proposed by TV2.2 in comparison to February 1, 2022: 8:33am.

Block asked for confirmation that population numbers displayed on TV2.2 (and all other proposed maps) are solely reflective of the current population with no consideration of future projections. Rabinow clarified the Committee is utilizing the most recent U.S. Census data for population numbers, which they are legally obligated to do.

Chairman Anderson stated that she is in support of the changes made at the junction of Districts 1, 3, and 6 as shown by TV2.2; but she did not see the benefit of the other proposed changes, noting that the districts appear less compact. Rabinow agreed. Vonick stated that it is possible to maintain the change at the aforementioned junction without necessitating changes elsewhere.

Hall agreed with comments made by Chairman Anderson and Rabinow, adding that though the population distribution was minimally effected by the changes proposed by Vonick the disparities, nevertheless, increased. Kelly seconded Hall's comments, noting that TV2.2 also increases the number of residents changing districts.

Vote on Final Version of Voting District Map to be Used

MOTION MADE (Vonick), seconded (Lemoine) to accept map TV2.2 as the final working map for the 2022 Trumbull Redistricting Committee. *Block abstained.*

Vote: 2-4 (Anderson, Rabinow, Hall, Kelly) Motion Failed

MOTION MADE (Vonick), seconded (Block) to accept the map February 1, 2022: 8:33am, and corresponding meet and bounds descriptions, as the working map and descriptions for the Committee's redistricting purposes. The motion carried unanimously.

Vote: 7-0 Motion Carried

MOTION MADE (Vonick), seconded (Block) to amend map February 1, 2022: 8:33am to include the proposed changes to District 1, extending the boundary of the district northernly along the Route 25 to the intersection of Route 111 and adding 17 people to District 1 from District 3. The motion carried unanimously.

Vote: 7-0 Motion Carried

MOTION MADE (Vonick), seconded (Block) to renumber the districts on map February 1, 2022: 8:33am to follow a more intuitive, clockwise order.

Vote: None Motion Removed

Vonick stated that renumbering the districts as outlined by map February 1, 2022: 8:33am appears to minimize the number of residents having to change districts. Lemoine voiced support for this change, noting that a more intuitive pattern would make the district layout easier to comprehend. Kelly questioned how the districts came to be numbered as they currently are on map February 1, 2022: 8:33am, noting that there has never been a sequential order of districts in Trumbull. He stated he would like input from White before making a decision. Hall seconded these comments.

Chairman Anderson stated that the Committee would need to clarify whether or not it has the authority to change district numbers. Atty. Schopick informed that the Town Council has the authority to change district boundaries which he posited to be serendipitous to changing district numbers. He stated that there would be no harm in making the recommendation.

Kelly asked if White could provide a numerical argument for making such changes. For example, can both numbering options be compared to determine which best minimizes the number of residents having to change districts.

MOTION MADE (Anderson), seconded (Rabinow) to remove the motion made by Vonick regarding renumbering the districts as outlined by map February 1, 2022: 8:33am. The motion carried unanimously.

Vote: 7-0

Motion Carried

Any Other New Business Including New Documents / Data Needed for Committee Review

Rabinow proposed Committee members independently trace out the boundaries of each district, as outline by map February 1, 2022: 8:33am, and form a list of questions and concerns regarding boundary descriptors which can be discussed with the Committee during the next regularly scheduled meeting. Chairman Anderson and Block voiced support for this.

Vonick asked whether the Committee would be willing to meet in person. William Chin clarified that there is no ability to conduct a true hybrid meeting, noting that virtual members would need to dial into the meeting via phone. The Committee voiced opposition to this.

The Chairman stated that, based on discussions from the upcoming February 17, 2022 meeting, she would like to create a rough draft of the Committee's final report for members to review and discuss during the February 24, 2022 meeting.

Block asked First Selectman Tesoro if she knew of any Town records which offer clarification as to when, why, and how the current district numbering system came about. He stated that he would like the Committee to look into renumbering efforts if possible. First Selectman Tesoro informed that the Town Clerk's Office houses records from past redistricting efforts. The First Selectman also noted that renumbering endeavors may create some confusion in Town. Atty. Schopick agreed with First Selectman Tesoro's comments.

Determine Time Line for Receipt of / Committee Review of Boundary Line Descriptions from Steven Earley

Chairman Anderson stated she would confirm with Earley that he would be able to provide a new draft of the meets and bounds descriptions to the Committee prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Old Business

None.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 6:43p.m. by Block and seconded by Hall. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gia Mentillo
2022 Trumbull Redistricting Committee Clerk