

Town of Trumbull
2022 Trumbull Redistricting Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 24, 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 24, 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
Stephen Lemoine, Town Council District 5
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
William Chin, Director of Information Technology

Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

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

Approval of Feb. 10, 2022 and Feb. 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes

MOTION MADE (Block), seconded (Rabinow) to approve the February 10, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Vote: 7-0 **Motion Carried**

MOTION MADE (Block), seconded (Rabinow) to approve the February 14, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Vote: 7-0 **Motion Carried**

New Business

Review / Discuss Map Change from Last Meeting & Other Areas of Concern Raised by Richard White

Chairman Anderson informed that she reached out to the CT General Assembly 2021 Redistricting Committee staff in an attempt to get the written boundary descriptions of the House Representative districts, but was informed that such a document does not exist. Meaning, she was not able to obtain state level documentation which afforded clarification regarding the issues with Reservoir Avenue raised by White and other Committee members in previous meetings. Rabinow clarified that as long as the boundary descriptor is worded as following along the 132nd House District line, then the Registrar Office will be able to allocate residents on the disputed parcel to the appropriate voting district. The Committee voiced support for leaving the boundary descriptor as-is. Earley stated that he would work to obtain the addresses of the individual buildings on the disputed parcel.

Vonick questioned whether there could be a notation added to the property's field card stating that residents of one building on the property would be voting in a different district than those in the other building. Earley stated that they could request that of the Tax Assessor, but he was unsure as to whether or not they would be able to do so. Rabinow proposed identifying the address with the Registrar Office so that they can have their voter database flag that property if anyone where to ever occupy those structures as residences. White stated he would like to provide the Registrar Office with a map highlighting the areas of concern identified by the Committee.

Rabinow stated that she intends to write to U.S. Representative Hime's office to see if they can facilitate a conversation with the U.S. Census Department to attempt to get the U.S. Census Blocks to align more clearly with our Town maps in time for the next decennial census.

Chairman Anderson questioned if such a recommendation should be included in the Committee's final report to the Town Council. Rabinow stated that the electors could simply convey the information to the Tax Assessor's. The Committee voiced opposition to this.

White reminded the Committee that they must factor in Trumbull's prisoner population to the final voting district format and population totals. He informed that a perfect population distribution amongst voting district would result in 5,261 people per district, adding that the current breakdown is within 100 person deviation of that. He stated that he would be able to provide the Committee with a new map including the 15 prisoners in Town using the method discussed at during the Committees initially meetings.

Block asked for a copy of the Voting District Map with the House District Boundaries shown. Chairman Anderson stated that she had such a copy which she would distribute.

Vonick noted that where split voting district occur there is a fairly even population distribution amongst the two House Districts within said voting district.

Review / Discuss Final Changes to Revised Boundary Description Provided by Steven Earley

Vonick asked whether the Committee would be including a general notation in their final report providing additional information as to how to interpret boundary descriptors as previously

discussed. The Committee voiced support for doing so. Rabinow volunteered to draft the verbiage for the notation to be added to the end of the boundary descriptors.

Chairman Anderson noted that the Committee would postpone the final vote on the boundary descriptor to the next meeting to allow for incorporation of the aforementioned notation.

Review / Discuss Draft Report

Chairman Anderson informed that she utilized the framework of the 2020 Trumbull Redistricting Committee final report to create the rough draft of the 2022 Trumbull Redistricting Committee final report which she distributed to the Committee. The Committee thanked the Chairman for her efforts.

Block shared editorial comments, noting he did not have any substantial changes. He stated he would like to amend the statement on page two regarding the Committee's approval of the district layout to say a majority approval rather than a unanimous approval.

Rabinow shared concerns about Block's editorial comments, stating that she does not feel that the report should refer to the electors' political party affiliation as it is not relevant to the report. However, she stated that if such information is included then it should read as "democratic" rather than "democrat." She also informed that the vote to approve the district layout should list the names of those in favor and opposed to the vote rather than using the term "majority." Kelly voiced agreement with Rabinow, noting that he did not have enough time to review the document with Block's comments and that he would prefer to discuss those comments more thoroughly in the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Chairman Anderson asked if there was a need to identify anyone's political party at any point, specifically referring to the two Town Council members on the Committee. Vonick stated that he has no preference for whether or not his political party affiliation is included in the Committee's final report, adding that he does feel it necessary to include that information in reference to the two Town Council members, Hall and Lemoine.

Block stated that he included the party affiliations in his revisions to the document because it is the charge of the Committee to have a certain number of members from each party and the electors are typically listed by party affiliation. Vonick stated that Committee members should be referenced in a manner consistent with that initial charge. Chairman Anderson stated that she would include the party affiliations in the newest draft of the Committee's final report.

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

Vonick as we near the end of this Committee does it make sense for us to reach out to the Town Council with our rough draft so that there is an opportunity for us to address any of their concerns in advance of the approval deadline. The Committee voiced opposition to this.

Old Business

There was no old business discussed.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 6:36p.m. by Rabinow and seconded by Block. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gia Mentillo
2022 Trumbull Redistricting Committee Clerk