



Town of Trumbull

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2020 Trumbull Redistricting
Committee

LAUREL ANDERSON, CHAIRMAN
TOM KELLY
KEVIN SHIVELY
TONY SCINTO

2020 Trumbull Redistricting Committee March 4, 2020 MINUTES

The 2020 Trumbull Redistricting Committee meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Laurel Anderson.

Members present: Laurel Anderson
Tom Kelly
Kevin Shively
Tony Scinto

Also present: First Selectman Vicki Tesoro
Anthony D'Aquila
Richard White

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Minutes

Kevin Shively moved, and Tom Kelly seconded, that the Minutes of the February 26, 2020, Redistricting Committee meeting be approved as submitted; the vote in favor was unanimous.

Old Business: Review of census, voter, and other pertinent data by invited guest Richard White.

Richard White gave a brief statement of his credentials, which include years of GIS and mapping, and briefly discussed the hierarchy of the census divisions, from smallest to largest: block, block group, tract, county, state, region, division, USA. Mr. White noted that voting districts are described by metes and bounds, not by census blocks, but that census blocks cannot be split in designing districts.

Trumbull has nine (9) tracts, each based on the 2010 census; and although the current data on how many people are in each census block can be found in the US Census's five-year American Community Survey (ACS) that was completed in 2018 and released in 2019, Mr. White said that it was his understanding that under state law and the current Trumbull charter the ACS cannot be used in designing voting districts.

He distributed maps that he had prepared in advance of the Town's last redistricting, based on the 2010 census, with areas shaded to show population density within census

blocks. On his maps, the 123rd state House district included Trumbull's voting districts 1, 3, 6, 7 and part of 2; part of the 122nd state House district is part of Trumbull voting district 2, and part of the 134th state House district is Trumbull's voting districts 4 and 5. The maps do not show voter density, but he had geocoded Trumbull's voter registration data in 2012 with what he believes was 98% accuracy, and he volunteered to geocode the Town's most current registration data, so that the Committee can get a count of both voters and residents within specific geographic areas. Voter data cannot be used for our new district mapping consideration. Mr. White said that parcels at the borders of voting districts can be swapped to make the number of voters, as opposed to the number of residents, somewhat more equal in each district, so long as the number of residents in each of the swapped parcels is essentially equal.

Tony Scinto noted that Trumbull's population has been relatively stable, having taken approximately 50 years to rise from 30,000 to 36,000, and that although the Town charter specifies that the Town Council must consist for 21 members, we have had varying numbers of voting districts; we went from 3 districts to 5 districts in June 1981. He also suggested that no one can be sure where future growth, in either the number of residents or the number of voters, will happen in future years.

New Business:

Discuss and agree on document/data requirements and next expert presenter

Laurel Anderson requested the committee's input on two questions: do we need to hear next from one of the Town's attorneys, and should we try to invite someone who specializes in redistricting from Sen. Looney's and/or Sen. Fasano's office(s)? Vicki Tesoro suggested contacting Town Attorney Daniel Schopick, and it was the sense of the meeting that Laurel should contact Attorney Schopick. No decision was reached on whether or not to invite anyone from Hartford, even assuming that they could make it down for one of the Committee's meetings.

Future meeting locations

Laurel Anderson noted that all of the Committee's future meetings will be in the Nichols Room, except for the April 1 meeting. Suggestions for an alternate site for the April 1 meeting included the Town Hall basement and the board room of the Trumbull Library. Laurel promised to investigate.

Adjournment

On a motion by Kevin Shively, seconded by Tom Kelly, and agreed to unanimously, Laurel Anderson adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Rabinow

Clerk of the Committee

