

BCA Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 4, 2021
Steele Community Room and Zoom

BCA Members Present: Carla Lawrence, Town Clerk; Liz Schlegel Stevens, BCA Chair; Robert Dostis, Vice-Chair; Mike Bard; Pauline Nolte; Linda Gravell; Steve Karcher; Jim Adams; Marion Howes; Paul Blake; Dani Kehlmann; Katrina VanTyne, Chris MacKay; and John Bauer

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm.

R. Dostis stated that purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Legislative Apportionment Boards proposed redistricting plan. It is the BCA's job to respond to the proposed plan. The Select Board met on Monday, reviewed the plan and recommended to the BCA to reject the plan due to the adverse impact on Waterbury.

Approved Agenda

P. Blake made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by K. VanTyne and passed unanimously.

Public

There was no public comment.

Approve Minutes

J. Bauer moved to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2021 BCA meeting. The motion was seconded by L. Gravell and passed unanimously.

Discuss Proposed Legislative Reapportionment

L. Schlegel Stevens recused herself from the discussion and vote.

R. Dostis explained that the question before the BCA is to either accept or reject the redistricting plan proposed by the LAB and state the reasons why. C. Lawrence screen shared the proposed maps. She explained that for the past 11 years, the district has been comprised of Waterbury, Bolton and Huntington and is a 2-member district. Under the new proposal, approximately 750 residents of Waterbury would be combined with Bolton and Huntington under a 1-member district and the remainder of Waterbury would be a 1-member district. The line is drawn such that the west side of Winooski Street and Stowe Street would be in the Chittenden-Washington-1 district and the east side of the Streets along with the rest of Waterbury would be in the Washington-1 district. The line is drawn such that the two incumbent representatives would have to run against each other. R. Dostis stated that each town will have their own view of the plan but it is up to the BCA to consider what is best for the Town of Waterbury. The towns will submit their comments to the LAB, and it will be up to the legislature to approve a final plan. Discussion continued as to the merits of a 1-member district versus a 2-member district and the proposed split of Waterbury residents. The consensus was that the 2-member district has served Waterbury very well.

L. Gravel made a motion that the Waterbury Board of Civil Authority reject the proposal as put forth by the Legislative Apportionment Board and retain the 2-member district. The motion was seconded by J. Bauer. Discussion of a 2-member district continued. C. Lawrence pointed out that the ideal 1-member district is approximately 4,300 people. The deviation in the Washington-1 district is 298 people and the deviation on the Chittenden-Washington-1 district is minus 277

people. For the combined 2-member district, the deviation is 21 people. The motion passed unanimously, with L. Schlegel Stevens recusing herself.

It was discussed that the portion of Town carved out to be included in the Chittenden-Washington-1 district has greater commonalities with the rest of the Town of Waterbury. A discussion was also held that if the Town be split, that a more reasonable division be considered. J. Bauer made a motion to charge the Vice-Chair to communicate the decision to the LAB expressing the sentiments discussed at this meeting and reviewing what was submitted 10 years ago. The motion was seconded by L. Gravell and passed unanimously.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by J. Bauer and seconded by M Howes. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Lawrence
Town Clerk