

LEGISLATIVE APPORTIONMENT BOARD  
*Title 17, Chapter 34A, Vermont Statutes Annotated*  
<https://sos.vermont.gov/apportionment-board/>

November 22 2021  
10:00 – 12:00 P.M.

MEETING DRAFT MINUTES  
Meeting at Secretary of State's Office, 128 State Street, Montpelier  
(Telephone Conference Call Participation Available)

Members Present: Tom Koch, Rob Roper

Members Present Remotely: Tom Little, Mary Houghton, Jeremy Hansen, Ed Adrian

Others Present: Chris Winter

Others Present Remotely: Eric Covey, Mia Kro, Michael Chernick

1. Call to Order

Tom L. called the meeting to order at 10:05am.

2. Review and Approval of Minutes of November 16, 2021 Meeting (5 Minutes)(all times approx.)

Tom L. believes the 11/16 work session minutes need some more work. He will be working on them, and circulating with the board.

3. Public Comment (per 1 V.S.A. sec. 312(h)) (up to 15 Minutes)

None.

4. Review, Discuss and Act on Final House District Map (up to 60 Minutes)

Tom L. noted that Jeanne Albert has circulated a proposed map. He believes the Board may not be prepared to take action today on proposed maps, as they have not had time to fully review them. Jeremy discussed the single-member district only map he and Rob created, and said they have been able to incorporate a large amount of the Board of Civil Authority (BCA) feedback. Jeremy described that they tiered and weighted the feedback, from those that said what they asked for specifically, to those who supported and did not provide feedback and which they considered silent endorsement, to those who asked for something entirely different, and Jeremy believes they have a much better map as a result. Rob said that with the approach they took they were able to create areas like South Burlington, which are all entirely contained single member districts. Jeremy said they tried to accommodate ward boundaries, but in some places the deviations meant this was not possible. Tom L. asked Jeremy to explain how to identify, or see, the House district line features of the map. Jeremy and Rob provided an overview of their map while Jeremy shared his screen to show the statewide overview. Rob and Jeremy walked through their proposed House map, noting changes from the initial proposal and describing reasons for those changes. Tom K. discussed the Ferdinand area, and transportation within the district it's included in.

Tom L. extended his gratitude for all of this work.

Jeanne asked Rob if Winooski's concerns don't matter. Rob responded 'not in this framework,' meaning the framework of making 150 single member districts.

Rob described other areas with self-contained single members districts, like Essex and Williston, which also has a split district between them.

Tom L. described the process 10 years ago: the map was sent to the House Clerk by the deadline, and the report was filed a bit later. He does not feel like this is the right time to take a vote on Rob and Jeremy's map, because people haven't had a chance to look at it yet.

Tom Koch believes they should keep moving and get as much done as they can today.

Tom L. raised the possibility of blocking off a couple of hours the afternoon of 11/23 to continue the map walkthrough process.

Jeanne wants to ask Rob and Jeremy why Middlebury was cut into even more pieces. Tom L. has the same question.

Rob and Jeremy provided an overview of the southern portion of the state. Some changes were made in response to BCA feedback. Other areas they could not accommodate BCA feedback, such as Shaftsbury.

Jeanne raised an issue with one district that stretches from Middlebury to Rochester over the mountains, saying in her opinion it is way too big, and is worse than the initial proposal.

Tom L. pointed out some sections of the Middlebury division that looked strange to him and Jeremy made a small edit to the district - two census blocks were in the center of the Middlebury districts.

Jeanne said it seems that sometimes they (Rob and Jeremy) care about feedback for keeping towns whole and sometimes they don't. Rob said they always care, but within the framework of creating 150 single member districts. Jeanne said that is their own framework they constructed, it is not the legal framework of the Board. Rob responded that it was how the majority of the Board felt.

Jeremy, Rob and Tom K. tried some live-editing around Northfield.

Tom L. led a discussion of possibly recessing until 2 pm on Tuesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Chris Winters reported that the Secretary of State's office remains ready to support the Board, but that the office needs clarity on the work load ahead in order to be able to plan accordingly.

5. Review, Discuss and Act on Final Senate District Map (up to 30 Minutes)

6. Set Next Meeting Date; Other Business (5 Minutes)

| Tom L. recessed the meeting until 2 pm on Tuesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

7. Adjourn