

Legislative Apportionment Board

Unapproved Meeting Minutes

Remote Meeting

Thursday, September 24th, 2020 at 9:00a.m.

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM

Members present: Tom Little, Mary Houghton, Rob Roper, Susan Borden, Jeremy Hansen, Ed Adrian, Tom Koch

Others present: Chris Winters, Michael Chernick, BetsyAnn Wrask, John Adams, Eric Covey, Mia Kro. In addition, two to three other members of the public came in and out of the remote meeting.

Chair Tom Little pointed out ACT 92 as authorization to meet remotely to satisfy the Open Meeting Law and asked that this Zoom meeting be recorded.

2. Introductions by Board Members and Others. Board members gave brief introductions.

3. Public Comment. No public comment was offered.

4. Overview of Statutes, Purposes, Goals and Timeline of the Board

- Tom Little, Chair – gave an overview of the Board and its charge.

- Chris Winters, Deputy Secretary of State, described the Secretary of State's role as one of support, taking the role of Secretary for the board and providing the administrative services the board needs to accomplish its work, including the creation of website pages for the board.

- Michael Chernick and BetsyAnn Wrask, Office of Legislative Counsel, described their role, mostly to listen and to understand what the Board would recommend to the Legislature, their client.

Michael Chernick and BetsyAnn Wrask gave an historic overview of reapportionment in Vermont.

https://sos.vermont.gov/media/dzmpiyej/2020_lab_presentation.pdf

5. Open Meeting and Public Records Laws. A brief overview by Tom Little, indicating these laws do apply.

6. Currently Available Census Data and Mapping Resources; Timing of Official U.S. Census. Expected in the 1Q of 2021, may be delayed.

Data - John Adams, Vermont Center for Geographic Information, provided an overview of VCGI data available and gave a presentation of existing House and Senate district maps and data.

<https://lab.mapvt.com>

7. Schedule for Board Meetings. The Board members agreed to a schedule of monthly meetings through December 2020. Tom Little will propose meeting dates.

8. Website Launch. The website is up and running and any feedback should go to Tom Little and or Chris Winters.

9. Board Member Discussion. The Board discussed potential work for the next 3-4 months, including:

- A deeper dive into Maptitude software training, which is not yet available
- Identifying districts with the most problematic deviations
- Initial philosophical discussions

10. Other Business. No “other business was taken up.

11. Adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 11:01 AM. The next meeting will be scheduled by email and will be posted on the LAB website: <https://sos.vermont.gov/apportionment-board/>