

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

October 11, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Rob Roper

Members Present Virtually: Tom Little, Ed Adrian, Jeremy Hansen, Jeanne Albert, Mary Houghton

Others Present: Chris Winters

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

Members of the Public Present: Robert Bristow-Johnson

1. Call to Order

Tom Little called the meeting to order at 9:03 am.

2. Review and Approval of Minutes of September 27, 2021 Meeting (5 Minutes)(all times approx.)

Minutes for the October 4th regular meeting and the October 4th and 8th work sessions were discussed and action deferred. Tom realized the meeting warning for this morning's meeting, referencing "September 27", was incorrect, as those minutes have already been approved.

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

Robert Bristow-Johnson thanked the Board for being able to drop in on the Friday meeting, and made a template Burlington Ward map in District Builder, as well as a House map for Burlington to propose to the Board. Robert discussed parts of his draft map, and the underlying census blocks, including the UVM Redstone Campus area where he believes there are two census blocks that have an incorrect count. He suggested the LAB contact Jay Appleton, a mapping specialist working on Burlington's City Council redistricting.

4. Updates, Comments on Prior Agenda Items (up to 90 Minutes)

- Board Member Reports on Public Forums and Other Public Interactions

Tom Little reported he did a forum at Middlebury College sponsored by its local chapter of the American Association of Geographers, and one for the League of Women Voters in Burlington.

Tom Little asked for an update from Chris Winters at the Secretary of State's office for how we have prepared to take action once the Board's proposed "tentative" House redistricting map is approved.

Chris updated that we are prepared to send the map and instructions for feedback electronically to every Town/City Clerk, Legislative Board Chair we have contact information for, through Muninet, and by issuing a press release.

That notice will include links to materials on the LAB website, the proposed map with sufficient details, a feedback form, town-by-town census data, and other helpful information.

Tom said he is also crafting languages asking towns to please keep in mind larger regional impacts of any requested district changes in their feedback.

Chris highlighted that, given technology has advanced significantly in the 10 years since this process was last undertaken, and that due to delayed Census data and COVID-19 complications, there is not time to assemble a mass physical mailing like in years past. However, technological advancements mean that providing this information in a convenient, efficient manner is much more possible.

- Board Member Mapping Efforts

Tom L. said that the LAB currently has three comprehensive maps being worked on, and suggested that the two single member maps may be able to be collapsed into one (Rob Roper's and Jeremy Hansen's maps).

Jeremy said he would like to continue to work on the collaborative map he and Rob started. He suggested recessing to allow for this to occur.

Jeanne said she felt too time-constrained trying to collaboratively map during Friday's work session, and felt like there were too many big decisions to make, and feels like making decisions based just on population numbers doesn't work.

Tom L. asked Chris his opinion on, if the LAB waited until Monday, October the 18th for a final vote the tentative House map, what would the Secretary of State's office be prepared to do? Chris said the office could get the information out immediately.

Rob and Jeanne discussed the process for adopting a map. Jeanne believes there are some differences between her map and the single member maps that can't be reconciled.

Tom believes that that first bite of the apple would instead have two completed (one single member, and another single and two-member district map), and suggested that Jeremy and Rob try to work to build a joint, single map.

Rob said he will not have time to construct his map in Maptitude. Mia can provide technical assistance, but it will depend on the state of the map she is given.

Tom is willing to end this meeting early to allow for the other collaborative map work to happen. He also reminded the Board that they have to get back to the Senate map.

Jeremy and Rob will work on getting a collaborative House map into Maptitude.

5. Updates on Plans for Sending Initial House Map Proposal to Boards of Civil Authority (10 Minutes)

N/A – already discussed.

6. Updates from Legislative Counsel, Vermont Center for Geographic Information, Secretary of State's Office (10 Minutes)

None.

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

The next full meeting was set for Friday at 9am.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:54am.