

## **Legislative Apportionment Board**

April 29, 2021

Approved Meeting Minutes

\*Remote Meeting\*

### **1. Call to Order**

Members present: Tom Little, Mary Houghton, Rob Roper, Jeanne Albert, Jeremy Hansen, Tom Koch

Absent: Ed Adrian

Others present: John Adams, JP Isabelle, Michael Chernick, Mia Kro

Chair Tom Little called meeting to order at 9:02 am. ACT 92 as authorization to meet remotely to satisfy the Open Meeting Law and asked that this Zoom meeting be recorded.

### **2. Review and Approval of Minutes of March 25, 2021 Meeting**

Jeremy Hanson moved to approve the minutes. Rob Roper seconded. (note- a vote was not held)

### **3. Public Comment (per 1 V.S.A. sec. 312(h))**

No public comment was offered.

### **4. Updates**

#### **- Timing of U.S Census Results: August 15 and September 30 Dates**

Tom noted the release of the partial data from the US Census on April 26 and overall state population data.

Jeanne Albert noted a 2.8% increase in the state population, which was a little higher than anticipated.

#### **- H. 338 Enacted into law on April 21, 2021, Adjusting Board Deadlines**

#### **-Public Education and Outreach/Board Member Reports on Their Public Interactions**

The Board's first op-ed has been published. Board members noted they had not received any public feedback.

Tom Little had been contacted by the Princeton University Gerrymandering project (<https://gerrymander.princeton.edu/>) with questions and Jeanne Albert was interested in assisting to answer questions if needed.

Tom Little also heard from members of the following communities:

A group from South Hero and Grand Isle reached out and want the Board to consider having at least one representative from the islands representing them.

Residents in the town of Corinth reached out with concerns about the current house district. There are six towns within the district and the comments were that it was too large.

Tom Little reached out to Karen Horn at the Vermont League of Cities and Towns to discuss collaborating on outreach to local towns and boards of civil authority.

Tom Little and Ed Adrian attended a meeting of the Chittenden County Democratic committee.

Rob Roper had also heard from someone in the islands who wants to maintain the status quo in the district.

Jeanne Albert heard from the Windham County Democratic committee that they wanted an update on the process. She also heard anecdotally the difficulty of having multiple towns in one house district (noting the above comments from Corinth).

#### **- Maptitude; Use of August 15, 2021 Data Set in Maptitude**

Michael Chernick from Legislative Counsel has been in contact with Maptitude and has been assured that the August 15 date release will be available.

#### **- VCGI Update from John Adams**

John Adams briefly reviewed the data released, noting the total population of 643,077. Based on the overall number, the ideal population number will be 4,287 for a House seat and 21,436 for a Senate seat (assuming the same number of members for House & Senate.).

Jeanne Albert asked if all states get the info on the same day on Aug 15 or may it be on a rolling basis?

Michael Chernick reported the US Census has said that all data will be released simultaneously, unlike what has occurred in the past.

### **5. Discussion of Member Mapping Exercises to Date**

More training has been scheduled for Board members on May 12 and May 19. Board members are welcome to attend one or both.

Jeremy Hanson shared a link to <https://districtr.org/>. It's a redistricting software tool that members could use. It is still using the 2010 data.

### **6. Racial Equity Task Force's Report's Redistricting Recommendation**

Rob Roper had read the Racial Equity Task Force's report and noted there was a component of the report that looked at reapportionment. The report can be found here [https://racialequity.vermont.gov/sites/reap/files/doc\\_library/RETF-Report-2-Final.pdf](https://racialequity.vermont.gov/sites/reap/files/doc_library/RETF-Report-2-Final.pdf).

Tom Little had reached out to -Xusana Davis, Executive Director of Racial Equity for Vermont and the chair of Task Force, to attend a Board meeting. She will attend the May meeting along with Brittany Wilson, the governor's Sec of Civil and Military Affairs who is also on the task force.

#### **7. Other Business**

The Board discussed what information should be publicly available on the website with regards to contact and other personal contact information of Board members.

Mia Kros discussed the upcoming trainings for Maptitude.

Rob Roper offered to draft a second op-ed for the Board to review.

#### **9. Adjourn**

Seeing no objection, Tom Little adjourned the meeting at 10:30 am