

Wallingford Board of Civil Authority
Minutes
November 8, 2021

Board Members Present: Justice of the Peace: Wendy Savery, Maureen Duchesne, Sandy Eddy, Nikolaus Houghton, Curtis Lidstone, Kate Goetz, Maria French, and Tony Petrossi; Selectboard member Nelson Tift, Rose Regula, and Kathy Luzader, and Town Clerk & Treasurer Julie Sharon

Board Members Absent: Bruce Duchesne, Pat Pranger, Tom Truex and Stanley Seward

Others Present: Representative Art Peterson

Chair W. Savery called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

No additions or deletions were made to the agenda.

The minutes of the July 20, 2021 meeting were approved on a motion made by M. French and seconded by R. Regula. Motion carried.

Chair W. Savery explained that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Legislative Board of Apportionment (LAB) proposed redistricting plan. The BCA is under obligation to review the draft maps and respond by November 15th. The draft maps propose that Wallingford change from a two-member House district with Clarendon and portions of West Rutland and Proctor (RUT-2), to a single member House district with Shrewsbury and Mount Holly (RUT-1).

The Board discussed the LAB's methodology of looking at each House district based upon the 2020 US Census data. Their proposed plan is that all 246 towns and cities become single-member districts. There are currently 44 two-member House districts. Representative Art Petersen commented that although he has never been involved in a redistricting, this is an evolving matter and is quite a process to complete.

Some members did not agree with the proposal, preferring to remain intact, based on having more ties with the town of Clarendon through emergency and highway mutual aid as well as being in the same school district. However, it was pointed out that Shrewsbury is in the same school district and that some MRU students are from Mount Holly as it is an easy commute.

After a healthy discussion, a vote was taken to accept the proposed one-rep district of Wallingford, Mount Holly, and Shrewsbury. Board member K. Luzader made the motion to recommend the proposed single representative district, which was seconded by S. Eddy. Chair Savery recused herself from the vote. Motion carried (6-4).

The primary reasons for the BCA's decision are: 1) Wallingford is in close proximity to the proposed district as drawn; 2) students from all three towns attend the same unified school district; 3)

Shrewsbury and Wallingford are in the same unified school district; and 4) the majority voted in favor of adopting the proposed district. J. Sharon will respond to the LAB with this decision.

Under other business, J. Sharon reported that the Town received a grant from the Secretary of State's Office last fall to purchase a ballot drop box, which is located at the Taft Terrace entrance. Changes were made to the Election Law by the Legislature this past session in Act 60. Pursuant to Title 17, Chapter 51 §2543a, the BCA must now vote to install and/or approve the use of one or more secure ballot drop boxes for voters to return their ballots. Approval was given on a motion made by N. Houghton and seconded by K. Luzader. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m. on a motion made by C. Lidstone and seconded by K. Luzader. Motion carried.

Julie M. Sharon, Town Clerk