

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING  
OCTOBER 20, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Barbara Griffin at 10:08 AM in Rooms 210 and 211 of the Legislative Office Building. Chairman Griffin requested that everyone join her in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Griffin announced that public listening sessions had been conducted in all ten counties and that aspect of our work had been completed. She further announced that she had mileage reimbursement forms available for those members of the committee who had attended the listening sessions.

Chairman Griffin asked the committee members if any comments or issues had been raised in any of the listening sessions that the members wanted to bring up. Rep. Connie Lane explained that she had only watched the sessions online and had difficulty hearing what was said. She encouraged that we keep audio issues in mind for future hearings. Chairman Griffin reminded the committee members to check the General Court website for additional input.

Rep. Lucy Weber asked what happens to the e-mails that members of the committee receive? Chairman Griffin responded that such e-mails are likely read by the members and handled accordingly.

Rep. Israel Piedra pointed out that the General Court website doesn't allow for other than just general testimony the committee has received. Chairman Griffin asked that Information Technology staff look into the matter and correct it.

Chairman Griffin reviewed the sample letter to the cities that committee members had received regarding the city wards and how the ward lines needed to be redrawn as soon as possible. Rep. Travis O'Hara said that the ward lines in Laconia are done and just need to be printed out for the committee. Rep. Lane said that the ward lines in Concord will be done before the redistricting committee finishes its work on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Griffin announced that new, updated thumb drives are now available to committee members. The new thumb drives have software for the county commissioner districts.

Chairman Griffin explained that the committee needs to schedule full, working committee meetings and an executive session, now that the listening sessions are done. Since the bills before the committee are retained bills and need to be completed by the committee for a deadline of November 18<sup>th</sup>, the committee will plan to meet on November 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. There will be two days of public input sessions scheduled on the proposed maps during the week of November 8<sup>th</sup>. These will be conducted in representatives hall. The maps for the public to consider and offer input on will be decided by the committee during the week of November 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be full committee meetings for this purpose on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and November 4<sup>th</sup>. They will begin at 10:00 AM and likely last all day. It will be necessary for the proposed maps for public consideration to be available for the committee to examine on those two days.

Rep. Carol McGuire proceeded to provide proposed maps and data for State House districts in the counties of Belknap, Merrimack and Grafton. There had been difficulty in getting them to print.

Discussion on the maps followed. It was decided that any maps to be printed should be sent over to committee staff in advance of our meetings, so that they can be printed and copied for distribution to the committee members. The maps should also be made available to the committee members prior to the meetings.

After the maps from Rep. McGuire had been examined, Chairman Griffin observed that it had taken about an hour to do so. Chairman Griffin suggested that we keep the amount of time in mind for future discussions and planning purposes. Rep. Steven Smith suggested that it would be good if maps could be sent out to members forty-eight hours in advance of meetings. Chairman Griffin expressed the belief that twenty-four hours before should be sufficient. Rep. Steven Smith agreed.

There will be no committee meeting next week, which should give members who are working on maps additional time to complete them.

Rep. Griffin reviewed the four areas of redistricting in which the committee needed to complete its work. She spoke of the state representative districts, the county commissioner districts and the congressional districts. She recognized Rep. Ross Berry, who said that he had spoken to the leadership of the New Hampshire Republican State Committee about the fourth area before our committee, Republican State Convention Delegates. He explained that they are not apportioned in accordance with the constitutional requirement of one person and one vote, but nonetheless are voted for on a public ballot in state primaries. The Democrats don't choose them in a public manner and handle them within the Party. He agreed to have a proposed amendment drafted by the Office of Legislative Services to HB 55 that would eliminate the delegates altogether. Since state law allows for nominees for public office to be delegates also, the delegate responsibilities could still be handled in that manner. Rep. Steven Smith said that it would be better to remove the issue of delegate responsibilities from the ballot and the statutes completely and let the political parties deal with those matters. He will offer an amendment toward that end.

Rep. Matthew Wilhelm expressed the hope that one of the post map public input sessions could be held outside of Concord and in the evening.

There were no other comments or issues to be considered. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rep. Wayne D. MacDonald  
Clerk