

Lincoln Board of Civil Authority Minutes

November 10, 2021, 7:00 p.m. at the Town Office and remotely via Zoom

BCA Members Present: Sally Ober, Sally Taylor, Bill Finger, Paul Forlenza, Mark Mulqueen, Will Sipsey, Ari Kirshenbaum, Nancy Stevens

Guest: Jeanne Albert, a member of the Vermont Legislative Apportionment Board (LAB)

7:03 p.m., the meeting was called to order by Chair, Paul Forlenza.

Announcements:

- Paul introduced Jeanne Albert, who was here to help answer some of our questions about the legislative redistricting process.
- Sally Ober indicated that the 4-town vote to ratify Lincoln's withdrawal from the Mount Abraham Unified School District (MAUSD) will likely take place in March on Town Meeting Day.

Jeanne gave an overview of what the Legislative Apportionment Board (LAB) process has been so far, and how it arrived at the proposal we have received for review. She mentioned that there was a 4-3 split on the Board about whether to propose this map or another map, which Jeanne herself authored. Early in their process, the LAB decided that it should aim for 1-seat representative districts statewide, and do away with multi-seat districts as much as possible.

Discussion ensued about the proposed map in general, about proposed district changes in broader regions of Vermont, as well as the philosophy of whether single-rep districts were better than multi-rep districts. Ideas debated were whether or not Bristol should be divided, where it should be divided, and whether we have enough in common with Bristol to be grouped with them.

Sally Ober tried to narrow down our task at hand, which she understood to be: to look at the current proposal for Lincoln, and decide whether we agree or disagree with it. If we disagree, we need to give reasons why, suggest an alternative, and submit our feedback to the LAB by Monday, Nov. 15 at the latest.

Jeanne Albert chose to leave the meeting before motions were to be made or discussed.

Sally Ober made a motion to accept the representative district of Addison-6 as proposed, grouping Lincoln with Starksboro and a small section of Northeastern Bristol. Bill seconded. The motion was voted and failed.

Ari made a motion to suggest that any proposed districts should consider grouping rural towns together and conversely keeping more urban areas joined together as much as possible. Nancy seconded. Passed.

Sally Taylor made a motion to discuss and develop a list of criteria for why we reject the proposed redistricting map for Lincoln, and then vote on the whole list at once instead of making

a number of motions and conducting lots of voting on individual reasons. Sally Ober seconded. Passed.

We began to brainstorm a number of reasons why the proposed map was not acceptable. Here are some of the things discussed but not necessarily agreed upon:

1. The proposed change does not reflect our community.
2. It does not group people by common interest.
3. It favors a single-member district over municipalities.
4. Moving to a single-member district appeared to be an arbitrary goal.
5. A 1-member district would provide Lincoln with less diverse representation.

At approximately 9:10 p.m. we lost internet connection at the Town Office. After several attempts to restore the connection and trying re-start the meeting on Zoom, it was agreed that we would end the meeting [Agreement and communications were accomplished via text, phone call, and/or email among some people who still had internet connection]. Will Sipsey volunteered to write up a list of criteria for rejection of the LAB proposal to share via email tomorrow, which hopefully all will approve.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sally Ober, Clerk of the BCA