

Lincoln Board of Civil Authority Minutes

Nov. 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Office and via Zoom

(Note: this meeting was a continuation of the Nov. 10, 2021 BCA meeting, which ended prematurely. We had technical failures which disconnected attendees on the remote Zoom platform from those at the town office.)

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

BCA Member, Sally Taylor, was unable to attend this meeting on short notice, even though she was present at the Nov. 10 meeting. All other remaining BCA members were notified of this [emergency] meeting via e-mail.

After more technical difficulties with sound, Paul Forlenza called the meeting to order at 6:24 p.m.

Paul asked if we could focus on describing desirable attributes for a House representative district, rather than what we don't like about the proposed revised district. We collectively brainstormed a list and then voted on each attribute one at a time as follows:

1. Paul made a motion favoring a 2-member House district. Nancy seconded. Passed by a vote of 6 YES, and 2 NO.
2. Paul made a motion that House districts should connect towns with common interests. Bill seconded. Some of our neighboring towns which we share common interests with are: Starksboro, Bristol, Monkton, New Haven, Ripton, and Buell's Gore. Some examples of our common interests include commerce, schools, geographic proximity, and the New Haven River watershed. Passed unanimously.
3. Bill made a motion that House districts should respect municipal and town boundaries as they make geographic sense. Ari seconded. It was clarified that "geographic sense" means that district town groupings are not bisected by a mountain range for example. Passed unanimously.
4. Bill made a motion that House districts should avoid gerrymandering. Sally O. seconded. It was pointed out that gerrymandering by definition is manipulating district boundaries to favor a particular political party or class. Passed unanimously.
5. Paul made a motion that House districts should be drawn to maximize the efficiency of voting and minimize the costs of running elections. Town Clerk, Sally Ober, pointed out that dividing smaller towns into separate districts makes the process of running elections more complicated. Dividing a town may require establishing an additional polling place, and requires printing different ballots, obtaining additional tabulators or programming them for more than one ballot, and recruiting more assistant election officials to run separate voter checklists. Tabulating election results would likely take longer on election

night. All of these efforts take additional time on behalf of election workers and result in higher costs for running the election. Passed unanimously.

6. Will made a motion and Ari seconded that we favor house districts which promote racial and socio-economic equity. Passed unanimously.

Items 1-6 are qualities we favor in a House district.

Mark made a motion that as an alternative to the single-member district proposed by the Legislative Apportionment Board, we prefer Jeanne Albert's draft House district map which she shared with us on Nov. 10. Nancy seconded. Jeanne's proposal for our House district was labeled "Addison-4" on her map and it is a 2-member district, including all of Lincoln, all of Starksboro, all of Bristol, and the eastern half of Monkton with Silver Street and Bristol Road being the east/west dividing line in Monkton. Our rationale for dividing Monkton is that the western side of Monkton is more closely aligned with Ferrisburgh than Bristol or Starksboro. Maps of the LAB and Jeanne Albert's proposed districts will be attached to these minutes for the record. Passed unanimously.

Ari made a motion to adjourn. Passed. [Time was not noted.]

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sally Ober, Town Clerk.

**Sally Ober will submit feedback from our BCA to the Legislative Apportionment Board, by the deadline of Monday, Nov. 15, via an online portal.*