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| BCA Members |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Liz Scharf, Chair |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peter Hood |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mary Just Skinner |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phil Hyjek |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Martin |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theo Kennedy |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jan Thouron |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dorinda Crowell |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Demeter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kate Olney |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris McVeigh |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sarah Merriman |

MIDDLESEX BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY
Tuesday, November 2, 2021
6:00 PM
REMOTE VIA ZOOM + Town Hall
5 Church Street
Middlesex, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-5915

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chair, Liz Scharf, Select Board members Peter O. Hood, Mary Just Skinner, Phil Hyjek and Steve Martin; Justices of the Peace: Dorinda Crowell, Theo Kennedy, Jan Thouron, John Demeter, Kate Olney, and Chris McVeigh. Town Clerk Sarah Merriman took the minutes and the meeting was recorded by ORCA.

Call to Order, Amendments

Liz called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. There were no amendments.

Responding to the LAB’s Proposed Reapportionment Plan

The Board reviewed the Legislative Apportionment Board’s tentative plan for the House of Representatives’ new districts in light of the 2020 Census figures. In a nutshell, Middlesex and East Montpelier – which make up the formerly Washington 5 District – would now make up the Washington 4 District, except that a piece of East Montpelier would be part of the Washington 3 District, along with Calais, Worcester and Woodbury. The Board also reviewed information that, according to an informational meeting of the Calais BCA, Calais would prefer to merge with East Montpelier entirely and cut off Middlesex. The LAB has asked every BCA in the state for reaction to these redrawn districts by November 15, 2021.

Peter and Mary said they wanted to go on record that they would prefer to stay with East Montpelier for historical and practical reasons. Chris said a Calais/East Montpelier district would be a smaller district geographically. The Board discussed this. Theo said he feels as if Calais is over reaching by excluding Middlesex so they can merge with East Montpelier.

Mary suggested the BCA wait until the East Montpelier BCA weighs in. Sarah disagreed, noting the BCA was meeting in order to provide the LAB with its recommendations and that this BCA should do just that.

Mary, who is a former Vermont State Senator from Washington County, noted this tentative reapportionment was approved by a narrow 4-3 vote of the LAB. Tom Little, past chairman of the VT House Judiciary Committee, was one of the three voted against it, she said, and that raised concerns since he’s highly respected. She said the Legislature is going to feel free to draw the lines as the members see fit. She suggested current WAS-5 Rep. Kim Jessup meet with the BCA, though other BCA members said time was of the essence with the questionnaire due in two weeks.

The Board discussed how to answer question #10 on “Rationale and Comments.” Some of the reasons cited were an historical relationship with East Montpelier, a similar demographic with East Montpelier, if Middlesex is cut out, where would it go, with what town would it link? The proposed configuration brings Worcester back to Washington County instead of its current split Washington/Lamoille. The Calais plan would lead to a “domino effect.”

MOTION: Theo moved and Sarah seconded endorsing the Legislative Apportionment Board’s reconfiguration of the Vermont House of Representative District from WAS-5 to WAS-4 with Middlesex merging with most of East Montpelier. The motion passed by a unanimous vote. The Board appointed Sarah to fill out the questionnaire.

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Merriman, Town Clerk