

Albany County Redistricting Commission [Minutes: April 18, 2022]

Attendance

ACRC Commissioners	Interns	MMD
Joan Ramsey	Nick Glass (ACRC)	Marie Allen Campbell
Warren E. Hamilton	Nassim Ramdani (MMD)	Constance Graves
Larry Volk		Dona Bulluck
Patricia Sibilila		Dominic Mazza
Thomas Clingan	Guests:	Adrienne Kisse
Sita Subbaram	Jeffrey Wice	
Leif Hartmark	Priya Sankalia	
Julia Reeb	Ashley Tardif	
Mark McCumber	Marissa Zanfardino	

Chairman Volk convened the meeting at 4:03 PM and called the roll (see above.) There were no Minutes of previous meetings ready for consideration at this time.

The commission reviewed its second public hearing, held in person and via Zoom on April 14 at the County Office Building in Albany. All were pleased at how this “hybrid” hearing went technically (and expressed appreciation for the support of the Clerk of the County Legislature and County Information Services). Public participation was still not at the level where it should be. We need to start earlier and do more promotion. There were three speakers and two others who indicated they would submit testimony. The map cited by Gwen Pope is in the MORE software, as is Lars Dahl’s 7 MMD map – both are being converted to be available to the public on our website. Professor Wice noted that Common Cause NY offered to promote our hearings on their website, and will contact our Chair about this. While we were pleased with the technical support at 112 State Street, should we consider other locations as well?

This Thursday (April 21) at 7pm has been set as a date for a workshop to start ACRC mapping. It was noted that if attendance is 6 or more ACRC members, any such workshop session will need to follow the Open Meetings law including advance notice and live streaming. A second workshop will be set for Sunday (April 24) at 6 pm to continue, with consensus that we need to start this mapping with the northeastern part of the county, which has had the largest population growth, and work our way towards the west and southwest, avoiding the City of Albany until the MMD subcommittee is ready to finalize their recommended map.

ACRC next discussed the concern raised in the Public Hearing, the need for us to publish a timeline with milestones. Together we reviewed the draft milestone spreadsheet and fleshed this out with input from the MMD members present. Dr. Handley’s racial voting analysis still needs more time to be completed, which will impact these milestones. Planning for drafting the ACRC

Final Report was discussed, with ACRC members agreeing to work on drafting specific portions of this report.

There has been another map submission through the MORE software on our website, but the map referenced by Gwen Pope in the last public hearing has not been formally “submitted” through that software; the Chair will follow up on this. After considerable discussion, the milestones draft was felt to be relatively complete. Patricia will share it with everyone in time for action at the Monday April 25 meeting (alternatively, Professor Wice will check on whether this chart could legally be approved before the next meeting by an email vote of ACRC members.)

The next regular ACRC meeting will be on April 25.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Meeting notes prepared by Tom Clingan.