MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 26, 2021
10:00 AM IN Zoom and YouTube Live

I. CONVENE MEETING:

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by State Representative Gregg Haddad.

The following committee members were present:

Senator Kevin Kelly, Representative Jason Perillo, Representative Vincent Candelora, Senator Paul Formica, Representative Tammy Exum, Senator Mary Daugherty Abrams, Senator Douglas McCrory

Absent were:

II. OPENING REMARKS:

Rep. Haddad opened the meeting by saying that this is the beginning of the process to determine what new district lines will look like and looks forward to working with everyone. He then asked that members introduce themselves.

III. INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Committee members introduced themselves and stated the districts and towns they represent.

IV. ELECTION OF CO-CHAIRS

Senator Kelly remarked that traditionally the election of co-chairs rotates every ten years between the House and the Senate, Republican and Democrat. He then called on Rep. Candelora to make a nomination for House Chair. Rep. Candelora nominated Rep. Haddad as co-chair of the Redistricting Committee. This was seconded by Sen. Kelly. Sen. Kelly then opened it up to nominations for the second co-chair and called on Sen. Mary Daugherty
Abrams. She then nominated Sen. Kelly for the position of co-chair and this was seconded by Rep. Haddad.

V. INTRODUCTION OF PROJECT COORDINATOR AND NON-PARTISAN STAFF

Rep. Haddad remarked on the importance of the staff. There are equal numbers of democrats and republicans on the committee as well as house and senate members. He mentioned the importance of the non-partisan staff and introduced Jim Tamburro as the Project Coordinator.

Executive Director of Joint Committee on Legislative Management, Jim Tamburro introduced himself and the non-partisan staff that will be assisting the committee through the process. From the Office of Legislative Research, Kristen Sullivan, Jennifer Proto and Steph D’Ambrose. From ITS, Paul Alderucci, Rino Feole, and Cheryl Smith. From LCO, Attorney Michael Tellerico. Beth Waters, Kirstin Breiner and Tom Spinella will be helping the committee with administrative tasks.

Jim further remarked that there is a website as well as an email address for the committee to use. Rep. Haddad clarified that the website is active on the CGA website under the committee section. He explained that the staff members are listed there as well as the email address to reach committee members, which is reapportionment@cga.ct.gov. The members of the public will use that email address to communicate with members of the committee.

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS/INPUT

Sen. Kelly remarked that as was done ten years ago, we want to have public hearings on the plans across the state in each of the five congressional districts. Work will be done to get as much public input as possible, despite the challenges of COVID. He further remarked that there is another challenge to work through in the delay of the census figures until mid-August. Sen. Kelly also mentioned the committee’s email address and said that public input, comments, suggestions on the process are welcomed there.

VII. THE COMMISSIONING OF A WEBSITE:

Rep. Haddad remarked that the website will include access for members of the public to data received, plans considered, relevant court cases, legal authority and information on membership of the committee. Typically, ITS designs the website. In order to expedite getting it live, Rep. Haddad asked members of the committee to authorize the chairs of the committee to approve the website once the design is complete. It will likely look similar to the previous website used ten years ago. Rep. Candelora commented that given the timing, he believes that would be appropriate. No opposition was presented.

VIII. NEXT MEETING

Sen. Kelly commented that him and Rep. Haddad will schedule the next meeting after consulting with the other committee members. That date will be posted after those conversations take place.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

After asking for further questions or comments and seeing none, the meeting was adjourned at 10:16 AM by Rep. Haddad.