

# Town of Fairfax



## BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 2, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Gary Gilbert, Vice Chair at 3:05 p.m. through Zoom with Sue Mitchell, Randy DeVine, Peggy Gilbert, Gary Gilbert, Steve Bessette, Robert Horr, Marjorie Ellsworth, Steve Cormier, Alan Maynard, Mary Kay Raymond, Deborah Woodward, Lynn Parah, and Sarah Hadd, Town Manager were present along with public attendee John Mitchell.

The board discussed the Reapportionment (Redistricting). Steven Cormier and Alan Maynard reported on the State of Vermont 2022 Redistricting Hearing that took place that morning. Barbara Murphy our State Representative also discussed her same concerns at the Hearing. All Board members were all in agreement of the following:

### Franklin 2-Fairfax Board of Civil Authority *Feedback on H589*

This BCA unanimously recommends, rather than reapportioning any part of Fairfax, to combine all of Fairfax with Fletcher and Fairfield to create a two-representative district. *\*Please find the attached map.*

### Rationale and comments:

The House of Representatives Tentative Reapportionment Proposal (TRP) outlay of FRA-7 was problematic for a number of reasons and this BCA responded with a reasonable alternative of creating a 2-representative district. As passed by the house, H589 creates a new Franklin-6 and is a far worse alternative for Fairfax residents and their collective voice. Although it keeps county lines and school districts intact as we suggested previously, it also unfortunately splits the town almost down the middle and therefore places all Fairfax residents in a minority voice with neighboring towns (also Georgia's BCA is clear that they do not wish to become a 2-representative district). This split of our town does not follow the standards by which the process is expected to adhere to and does not recognize the value of a unified Fairfax voice. Specifically, the preservation of "communities of interest" including "patterns of geography, social interaction, trade, political ties, and common interests" as well as preserving "contiguous territory" are not seen in H589. H589 not only disrupts the contiguous territory of the Town of Fairfax, it cleaves off vibrant areas. In addition, we contend that Fairfax's growth and vibrancy should be seen as a case where the Fairfax voice is at least preserved if not amplified. With its


unique balance of classic rural lifestyle that includes multi-generational Vermont families and new out of state residents, the value of Fairfax's unique voice should be considered.

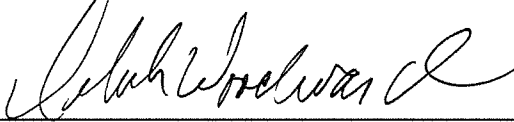
Disjointing the town as seen in H589 seems unconscionable to this BCA and we therefore submit a friendly alternative. In an effort to keep Fairfax intact and truly preserve communities of interest, we have voted unanimously again to propose a 2-representative district with Fairfax, Fletcher, and Fairfield. This should bring the census numbers into line as needed in the reapportionment process with a -2.02 deviation which also takes into account Fairfax's projected continual growth. Again, we feel this recommendation for reapportionment is more consistent with the 17 V.S.A. § 1903 standards and keeps one of the few quickly growing areas of Vermont intact. We urge you to implement our recommendation.

A motion was made by B Horr to recommended, rather than reapportioning any part of Fairfax, to combine all of Fairfax with Fletcher and Fairfield to create a two-representative district and seconded by MK Raymond. The Floor was opened for discussion and there was none. The motion to propose recommends, rather than reapportioning any part of Fairfax, to combine all of Fairfax with Fletcher and Fairfield to create a two-representative district. *It* was passed by a show of hands with all in favor.

D Woodward informed the Board that Bruce Corliss has asked for another abatement in May 2022 for when he is back in town. He has new information to share.

A motion was made by G Gilbert to adjourn the meeting and seconded by MK Raymond with all members in favor. The meeting adjourned at 3:31 p.m.

  
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Susan Mitchell  
Justice of the Peace

  
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Attested on February 7, 2022  
Deborah Woodward  
Town Clerk/Treasurer