

MINUTES OF THE WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW COMMITTEE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
February 9, 2022 – 5:00 p.m.

Committee Members present: Martin Pepin, Chairman
Richard R. Michaud, Vice Chairman
David A. Witham
Martin P. Dumont, Sr.

Administration/Staff present: Mayor Dana Hilliard
City Manager Bob Belmore
City Clerk Jonathan Slaven
Director of Development Services Michelle Mears

Chairman Pepin called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – JANUARY 19, 2022

Councilor Witham made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilor Michaud and passed 4-0.

REVIEW CENSUS DATA AND WARD MAP & BOUNDARIES

Director Mears presented a map showing ward populations of Somersworth created by SRPC. She stated Director Smith compiled population data per ward in order to show their relative deviation. The deviation must be +/- 5% and the data revealed that the ideal population per ward is approximately 2,371. Councilor Witham stated his initial reaction is to attempt to move part of wards 4 and 1 to Ward 5, keeping in mind the ensure Idlehurst stays in Ward 4 since it is a polling place.

Councilor Pepin stated the last proposed map the Committee drew up a few years ago moved much of the mill side of Main Street to Ward 5. Mayor Hilliard suggested staff draft a proposal ensuring the location for polling places are not put into another ward. He added that it is best to use staff and professionals for this process to ensure transparency and avoid any accusation of gerrymandering.

Councilor Dumont made a motion to have staff draft a proposal for new ward boundaries to come withing the relative deviation of +/- 5%. The motion was seconded by Councilor Michaud and passed 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Witham made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Michaud and passed 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Slaven, City Clerk