

RUTLAND TOWN RESPONSE TO THE REAPPORTIONMENT COMMITTEE----Feb. 14, 2022

The Rutland Town Board of Civil Authority has met on February 8 to review the proposal to keep Rutland Town intact as a single legislative district. We were unanimous in our conclusions and wish to offer our comments and suggestions to you for final consideration.

First, we were both pleasantly surprised, and pleased with the committee's decision to maintain Rutland Town as a single member district. In fact, this decision that you have made will be bolstered by our further comments here relative to the single member district decision.

We do understand the intricacies and nuances of redistricting the entire state, including our region, but we have noted some, quite frankly, strange additions and subtractions from our town. In your attempt at balance you have subtracted 31 residents from our N. Grove Street section and an additional 40 residents from our Center Rutland area. These two subtractions amount to a statistical change of .016 of the desired amount of 4287 residents. Then, in the next calculation, you have added 121 residents from Mendon to our eastern area, a statistical amount of .028 of that 4287 goal. The net gain to our residential total, based on these decisions, is 50 residents or .012. That same amount could obviously be achieved by simply adding 50 residents from Mendon and not removing residents from our Center Rutland or Grove street areas. That would be our recommendation for the following reasons.

First of all, Mendon, while a very vibrant and wholesome community, has both an economic and geographical makeup very different from Rutland Town. And we would note that its population is much smaller than ours and thus more fragile to changes of the magnitude of 121. As good neighbors, we feel they could live with a loss of 50 residents as opposed to 121 and we would gladly incorporate the 50 into our single member district and you would be doing us both a favor by making this change.

Secondly, during election seasons particularly, our Town Clerk has a multitude of responsibilities associated with the elections in addition to her regular duties ongoing in her office. The accounting and bureaucratic nightmare of three separate voting district lists in addition to our regular list is very difficult to contemplate and also very subject to error, of which we have very few based on past evaluations and critique by our Secretary of State's office. It would certainly be much friendlier to the Clerical process to deal with only one additional list of 50 from Mendon, not to mention more cost effective.

And lastly, as previously mentioned, for the very small changes producing very little net gain, it is upsetting to us as a single member district, to have to lose residents from three different geographical areas of our town, which as you can see from the reapportionment maps, is as diverse and encompassing a town as any in the county. So, in conclusion, if your goal is that we gain a net of 50 residents, please strongly consider doing so in one single move in one area only, and also helping Mendon out by reducing their net loss.

We very much appreciate the opportunity to comment here and wish you the best in your efforts.

Respectfully yours,

Town of Rutland Board of Civil Authority

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