

# Minutes Approval

## Commission on Reapportionment July 13, 2022 Meeting

  
Commissioner Regis Obijiski, Chair

07/18/2022  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Sarah DeStefano, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair      Date

✓ \_\_\_\_\_ 8/8/2022  
Commissioner Andy Monk, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair      Date

✓ \_\_\_\_\_ 8/11/2022  
Commissioner Donna Lutz      Date

✓ \_\_\_\_\_ 8/9/2022  
Commissioner Kenneth Panza      Date

✓ \_\_\_\_\_ 8/5/2022  
Commissioner Travis Rask      Date

✓ \_\_\_\_\_ 8/5/2022  
Commissioner Kathleen Waithe      Date

*s email approval attached*

## Commission on Reapportionment Meeting Minutes

**DATE & TIME:** July 13 2022 – 6:00 PM  
**LOCATION:** Legislative Chambers, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, County Office Building, 244 Fair Street, Kingston, NY  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Commissioner Regis Obijiski, Chair  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Fawn Tantillo  
**PRESENT:** 1st Deputy Chair Sarah DeStefano, 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Chair Andy Monk, Donna Lutz, Kenneth Panza, Travis Rask and Kathleen Waithe  
**ABSENT:** None  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislator Gina Hansut; Kristin Gumaer, County Attorney; Robert Liebowitz, Department of Planning; Town Supervisor Michael Baden, Rochester; Town Supervisor Marybeth Majestic, Gardiner; Carol Nolan, New Paltz resident; Philip Ryan, Tom Kruglinski, Diane Kruglinski, Mark Ferri, Stephen Weir, Jebah Baum, Linda Geary, Carl Hand, Mary Ann Hand, Samuel Cristler, Gardiner residents.

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Chair Obijiski called the meeting to order at approximately 6:05.

Mr. Leibowitz was prepared to project copies of various maps and display sections of maps as needed. Large maps (approximately 30" X 40") labeled Map 1 (Panza); Map 2 (DeStefano) and Map 3 (Compromise Suggestion) were on display.

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Motion No. 1                      To APPROVE the minutes of June 8, 2022 and June 22, 2022.

Motion Made By:                Commissioner Panza  
Motion Seconded By:         Commissioner Rask

**Discussion:**                    None.

**Voting In Favor:**                Commissioners Obijiski, DeStefano, Monk, Lutz, Panza, Rask and Waithe

**Voting Against:**                None

**Votes in Favor:**                 7

**Votes Against:**                 0

**Disposition:**                 **Minutes APPROVED**

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Commissioner Obijiski asked commissioners for comments on the agenda.

**Motion No. 2:**                    **To AMEND the agenda by striking "Discussion of Comparison Chart" and "Discussion of possible mapping modifications" and adding "Discussion of Map 1 and Map 2"**

Motion Made By:                Commissioner DeStefano  
Motion Seconded By:         Commissioner Panza

**Discussion:**                    Commissioner DeStefano noted that there was a consensus at the last meeting to consider Map 1 and Map 2 and the deadline for submission of public maps had passed.

Commissioner Monk said he wanted to consider the comparison chart and felt it was useful in making a decision. He also wanted an opportunity to ask some questions about the comparison chart.

Commissioner Monk said his understanding after the June 22 meeting was that commissioners agreed to consider Map 1 and Map 2 but had not ruled out the possibility of considering other maps. He appreciated Mr. Leibowitz work in preparing Map 3 as a “compromise map” based on the discussion at the June 22 meeting. He felt it was the responsibility and prerogative of commissioners to consider all viable maps, especially if it was a better map that struck a balance between the original two. He felt it was a mischaracterizing to imply that map 3 as one “submitted by the public” because Mr. Leibowitz was a member of the Commission’s staff who has assisted them in making maps throughout their deliberations.

Chair Obijiski agreed with Commissioner Monk. He said he offered the comparison chart as a follow up to the committee’s discussions and commissioners could use it as they see fit. He also felt the compromise map had elements of both Map 1 and Map 2 and should not be dismissed on some “technicality” because it was submitted a day after the last meeting and addressed issues raised with maps at that meeting.

Commissioner Lutz said the guidance at the last meeting specifically referred to consideration of Map 1 and Map 2.

Commissioner DeStefano felt consideration of Map 3 was more than a “technicality” because they had voted to make February 28, 2022, the deadline for public map submissions. She pointed out that commissioners could vote to include Map 3 if they choose to.

The Commissioners discussed Mr. Leibowitz standing as a “member of the public”, the timing of his submission and the discussion at the June 22 meeting.

<b>Voting In Favor:</b>	Commissioners DeStefano, Lutz, Panza, Rask and Waithe
<b>Voting Against:</b>	Commissioner Obijiski and Monk
<b>Votes in Favor:</b>	5
<b>Votes Against:</b>	2
<b>Disposition:</b>	<b>Agenda AMENDED by Long Roll Vote</b>

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#### Public Comment on Agenda Items

Gardiner residents Supervisor Marybeth Majestic, Tom Kruglinski, Tim Hunter, Glenn McNitt, Linda Geary, Steve Weir and Steven Cristler each spoke in favor of maps that kept the Town of Gardner in a single district and asked commissioners to consider Map 3 as a compromise map that addressed their concerns.

Supervisor Michael Baden noted there are pros and cons of maps 1 and 2 and asked commissioners not to just choose between the two but consider ways to make a better map.

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**Motion No. 3:**                    **To Add “Discussion of Map 3” to the agenda.**

**Motion Made By:**                Commissioner Monk  
**Motion Seconded By:**        Commissioner Obijiski

**Discussion:** Commissioner Waithe asked how many of the people in attendance were from the Town of Gardiner and there was a show of over a dozen hands. She noted their concerns were not unique to Gardiner and suggested that other towns would have the same concerns.

Commissioner DeStefano discussed that the majority of District 16 in Map 2 was in Gardiner and included 4174 Gardiner residents and 3501 Shawangunk residents. She pointed out that it is not possible to have a map that does not divide one town or another.

Commissioner Monk noted there is only a slight majority of Gardiner residents in District 16 of Map 2. He discussed various ways to divide towns and wanted to address concerns of several towns that at least one legislative district be within the town or that each district includes a majority of the town rather than dividing the population in two large “chunks”. He is not sure Map 3 is better, but he wants to at least consider it and questioned why his fellow commissioners would not want to.

Commissioner Panza noted that in Map 1, Gardiner is in one district.

<b>Voting In Favor:</b>	Commissioner Obijiski and Monk
<b>Voting Against:</b>	Commissioners DeStefano, Lutz, Panza, Rask and Waithe
<b>Votes in Favor:</b>	2
<b>Votes Against:</b>	5
<b>Disposition:</b>	<b>Motion FAILS by Long Roll Vote</b>

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Commissioners discussed Map 1 and Map 2.

Commissioner Panza was asked to summarize Map 1 – he stated:

- Map 1 incorporates all the comments from the public hearing and Map 2 does not do this.
- In Map 1 all town in Southern Ulster have at least one legislative district either within the town or with most of the population from the town that will ensure at least one representative from the town.
  - 74% of District 16 is within Gardiner
  - Plattekill, Shawangunk, Marlboro and Lloyd each have one district completely within the town.
- There was no consensus of how to compare how many towns are divided into 3 districts and he didn't feel this was an issue.

Commissioner DeStefano was asked to summarize Map 2 – she stated:

Like Map 1, Map 2 puts more of the hamlet of Kerhonkson in district 21 by moving the “hat” in Marbletown and did not make any other substantive changes to the map presented at the public hearings.

Commissioner DeStefano felt that the Map 1 “solution” for Gardiner left Plattekill and Lloyd in 3 districts and this was unfair. She criticized Map 1 saying it took no considerations of political boundaries, school district boundaries and made divisions along random lines that did not respect neighborhoods, geographical features, or any other criteria the commission considered. She noted Map 1 achieved one result for one town but in doing so insulted others.

Commissioner DeStefano expressed serious concerns that the attempt to ensure a legislator within each of the towns was the “definition of gerrymandering”, counter to the commission’s charge in the Charter and could open the commission’s work to legal challenges.

Commissioners discussed pros and cons of Maps 1 and 2.

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**Motion No. 4** For the clerk to call the roll and ask each Commissioner to express their preference for Map 1 or Map 2 as the final plan to be filed with Ulster County Board of Elections.

**Motion Made By:** Commissioner Lutz  
**Motion Seconded By:** Commissioner Waithe

<b>Chair Obijiski</b>	Map 1
<b>Commissioner DeStefano</b>	Map 2
<b>Commissioner Monk</b>	Map 1
<b>Commissioner Lutz</b>	Map 2
<b>Commissioner Panza</b>	Map 1
<b>Commissioner Rask</b>	Map 2
<b>Commissioner Waithe</b>	Map 2

**Votes for Map 1:** 3 (Commissioners Obijiski, Monk and Panza)  
**Votes for Map 2** 4 (Commissioners DeStefano, Lutz, Rask and Waithe)

**Disposition:** **Map 2 APPROVED** as the final plan to be filed with Ulster County Board of Elections.

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**Public Comment:**

Supervisor Baden enumerated some details of the Maps and noted the important role of town municipalities. He concurred with comments from Gardiner that it was important to keep towns intact.

Supervisor Majestic noted that public hearings serve a purpose and questioned the decision of the Commissioner to choose a map that did not address the public's concerns. She clarified her previous public hearing comments that were misquoted. She expressed her disappointment in the decision of the commission.

Thomas Kruglinski questioned political motivations of some commissioners and expressed displeasure with the decision of the commission.

Mark Ferri was also displeased with the decision of the commission. He noted that each map had towns divided into thirds and questioned why commissioner accepted it on one map and not the other.

Glenn McNitt felt this map created "gerrymandering" and that Gardiner's influence was diluted in both districts that now divide the town. He disapproved of the commission's decision.

Tim Hunter noted that the southern end of Gardiner is now in a district with an ultra-conservative part of Shawangunk he called "Trump-ers". He felt any reference to gerrymandering in Map 1 was misdirected. He noted that all comments from the public at this meeting supported Map 1 and none supported Map 2. He felt Map 2 was gerrymandered because District 16 was not fair to Gardiner or Shawangunk residents.

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Chair Obijiski asked if there was any other business, hearing none he called for a motion to adjourn.

**Motion Made By:** Commissioner Panza  
**Motion Seconded By:** Commissioner Lutz  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 7  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Time:** 7:28 PM

**Respectfully submitted by:** Fawn Tantillo

Re: Requesting your approval of the July 13, 2022, COR minutes for our records

Fawn Tantillo <ftan@co.ulster.ny.us>

Fri 8/5/2022 12:44 PM

To: Travis Rask <tmoney03@msn.com>

Thank you for your approval.

*Fawn A. Tantillo*  
*Senior Legislative Staff*  
845-340-3696  
244 Fair Street  
PO Box 1800  
Kingston, NY 12402

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**From:** Travis Rask <tmoney03@msn.com>

**Sent:** Friday, August 5, 2022 11:12 AM

**To:** Fawn Tantillo <ftan@co.ulster.ny.us>

**Subject:** Re: Requesting your approval of the July 13, 2022, COR minutes for our records

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

I approve the July 13, 2022 Minutes of the Commission on Reapportionment attached.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 5, 2022, at 10:58 AM, Fawn Tantillo <ftan@co.ulster.ny.us> wrote:

Good Morning,

I hope you are having a great summer. One more important "housekeeping" task.

Please take a moment to review the minutes of the final meeting of the Commission on Reapportionment of July 13, 2022 attached to this email.

If you approve of the minutes as written, please reply to this email with the statement:  
"I approve the July 13, 2022 Minutes of the Commission on Reapportionment attached."

Thank you,  
*Fawn A. Tantillo*  
*Senior Legislative Staff*  
845-340-3696  
244 Fair Street  
PO Box 1800  
Kingston, NY 12402

**Re: Approval of Commission Meeting**

Fawn Tantillo <ftan@co.ulster.ny.us>

Mon 8/8/2022 11:26 AM

To: kathy waithe <k.waithe@yahoo.com>

Thank you.

*Fawn A. Tantillo  
Senior Legislative Staff  
845-340-3696  
244 Fair Street  
PO Box 1800  
Kingston, NY 12402*

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**From:** kathy waithe <k.waithe@yahoo.com>

**Sent:** Friday, August 5, 2022 4:24 PM

**To:** Fawn Tantillo <ftan@co.ulster.ny.us>

**Subject:** Approval of Commission Meeting

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Good Afternoon,

I approve the July 13, 2022, Minutes of the Commission on Reapportionment attachment.

Sincerely  
Commissioner Kathy Waithe

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Re: Requesting your approval of the July 13, 2022, COR minutes for our records

Andy Monk <andy.j.monk@gmail.com>

Mon 8/8/2022 12:46 PM

To: Fawn Tantillo <ftan@co.ulster.ny.us>

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Hi Fawn,

I hope you're well.

I approve the July 13, 2022 Minutes of the Commission on Reapportionment attached.

Now that I have submitted my approval via email, do I still need to come to the county office building to sign anything?

Please let me know if so, and I'll be happy to stop by.

Thanks!

Andy

On Fri, Aug 5, 2022 at 10:56 AM Fawn Tantillo <[ftan@co.ulster.ny.us](mailto:ftan@co.ulster.ny.us)> wrote:

Good Morning,

I hope you are having a great summer. One more important "housekeeping" task.

Please take a moment to review the minutes of the final meeting of the Commission on Reapportionment of July 13, 2022 attached to this email.

If you approve of the minutes as written, please reply to this email with the statement:

"I approve the July 13, 2022 Minutes of the Commission on Reapportionment attached."

Thank you,

*Fawn A. Tantillo*

*Senior Legislative Staff*

845-340-3696

244 Fair Street

PO Box 1800

Kingston, NY 12402



Re: [EXTERNAL] Requesting your approval of the July 13, 2022, COR minutes for our records

Fawn Tantillo <ftan@co.ulster.ny.us>

Tue 8/9/2022 2:12 PM

To: Ken Panza, Town of Woodstock <kpanzawdsktd@hvc.rr.com>

Thank you for your approval and confirmation.

*Fawn A. Tantillo*  
*Senior Legislative Staff*  
845-340-3696  
244 Fair Street  
PO Box 1800  
Kingston, NY 12402

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**From:** Ken Panza, Town of Woodstock <kpanzawdsktd@hvc.rr.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 9, 2022 2:10 PM

**To:** Fawn Tantillo <ftan@co.ulster.ny.us>

**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Requesting your approval of the July 13, 2022, COR minutes for our records

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Fawn; I reviewed the minutes of the July 13, 2022 meeting of the Commission on Reapportionment, and I approve the minutes of July 13, 2022 as submitted.

Regards,  
Kenneth S. Panza, Commissioner

On 8/5/2022 10:56 AM, Fawn Tantillo wrote:

Good Morning,

I hope you are having a great summer. One more important "housekeeping" task.

Please take a moment to review the minutes of the final meeting of the Commission on Reapportionment of July 13, 2022 attached to this email.

If you approve of the minutes as written, please reply to this email with the statement: "I approve the July 13, 2022 Minutes of the Commission on Reapportionment attached."

Thank you,  
*Fawn A. Tantillo*  
*Senior Legislative Staff*  
845-340-3696  
244 Fair Street  
PO Box 1800  
Kingston, NY 12402

Re: Requesting your approval of the July 13, 2022, COR minutes for our records

Donna Lutz <donna.lutz106@gmail.com>

Thu 8/11/2022 5:53 PM

To: Fawn Tantillo <ftan@co.ulster.ny.us>

Cc: Donna Lutz <donna.lutz106@gmail.com>

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Fawn,

Thank you for the kind reminder!

I approve the July 13, 2022 Minutes of the Commission on Reapportionment.

Respectfully,

Commissioner Donna Lutz

On Fri, Aug 5, 2022, 10:56 AM Fawn Tantillo <[ftan@co.ulster.ny.us](mailto:ftan@co.ulster.ny.us)> wrote:

Good Morning,

I hope you are having a great summer. One more important "housekeeping" task.

Please take a moment to review the minutes of the final meeting of the Commission on Reapportionment of July 13, 2022 attached to this email.

If you approve of the minutes as written, please reply to this email with the statement:

"I approve the July 13, 2022 Minutes of the Commission on Reapportionment attached."

Thank you,

*Fawn A. Tantillo*

*Senior Legislative Staff*

845-340-3696

244 Fair Street

PO Box 1800

Kingston, NY 12402