Commission on Reapportionment Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: LOCATION:	April 14, 2021 – 6:00 PM Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing (646) 558-8656, Meeting ID: 956 1062 6098
PRESIDING OFFICER: LEGISLATIVE STAFF: PRESENT:	Commissioner Andy Monk (Rotating Chair) Fawn Tantillo Commissioners Sarah DeStefano, Donna Lutz, Regis Obijiski, Kenneth Panza, Travis Rask and Kathleen Waithe
ABSENT: QUORUM PRESENT:	None Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Ulster County Kristin Gumar, Ulster County Planni Robert Leibowitz; Mike Baden, Supervisor, Town of Rochester.

Chair Monk called the meeting to order at 6:01.

Motion No. 1: To approve the minutes of March 10, 2021

Motion By:	Commissioner Waithe
Motion Seconded By:	Commissioner Lutz
Discussion:	None.
Voting in Favor:	Commissioners DeStefano, Lutz, Monk, Obijiski, Panza, Rask and Waithe
Voting Against:	None
No. of Votes in Favor:	7
No. of Votes Against:	0
Disposition:	Minutes approved.

Chair Andy Monk updated the agenda to include the creation of a subcommittee to review the reapportionment software and scheduling meetings with the towns.

Mr. Leibowitz gave an update and comparison of three reapportionment software vendors.

Motion No. 2: To create a sub-committee to evaluate various mapping software with members Andy Monk, Sarah DeStefano and Travis Rask

Motion By:	Commissioner Panza
Motion Seconded By:	Commissioner DeStefano
Discussion:	See Transcript
Voting in Favor:	Commissioners DeStefano, Lutz, Monk, Obijiski, Panza, Rask and Waithe
Voting Against:	None
No. of Votes in Favor:	7
No. of Votes Against:	0
Disposition:	Subcommittee established

The committee discussed updating the website using existing headings.

Commissioners will each draft a brief bio for the website.

Commissioners discussed scheduling meetings with municipalities.

New Business

Old Business

The next meeting of the commission is May 12, 2021 at 6:00 and will be Chaired by Commissioner Regis Obijiski with Commissioner Kenneth Panza as Vice Chair.

Chair Monk asked if there was any other business, hearing none;

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:	7:08 PM

Respectfully submitted by:Fawn TantilloMinutes Approved:May 12, 2021

Commission on Reapportionment Meeting Transcript

DATE & TIME: LOCATION:

PRESIDING OFFICER: LEGISLATIVE STAFF: PRESENT:

ABSENT: QUORUM PRESENT: April 14, 2021 – 6:00 PM Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing (646) 558-8656, Meeting ID: 956 1062 6098 Commissioner Andy Monk (Rotating Chair) Fawn Tantillo Commissioners Sarah DeStefano, Donna Lutz, Regis Obijiski, Kenneth Panza, Travis Rask and Kathleen Waithe None Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Ulster County Attorney Kristin Gumar, Ulster County Planni Robert Leibowitz; Mike Baden, Supervisor, Town of Rochester.

Andy Monk

I will call the meeting to order at 6:01pm. So not a bad start in terms of punctuality, which is great. And the first order of business is to approve the minutes from our meeting for March 10. Does anyone want a motion to approve those?

Kathleen Waithe Motion to approve.

Andy Monk

Donna, is that a second? Perfect. All right, all in favor of approving those minutes. All right, great. So, the minutes are approved. Thanks, everyone.

I'm not sure if everyone saw that we added two additional agenda points to the meeting tonight. So, I think the order that makes the most sense, and I'm open to feedback on that is to first discuss the mapping vendors and hear from Rob about his recent meeting. And talk a little bit about that. Then, after that, talk about the creation of a subcommittee to review the reapportionment software, then get an update on the website progress from Dennis, talk about a press release. Then talk about our municipality meetings and talk about how we might want to go forward with those followed by discussing scheduling for the next meetings to new business, old business, and then we'll get out of here. Does that sound good to everybody?

Kathleen Waithe Sounds good.

Andy Monk

Okay, great. So, in that case, I will turn the floor over to Rob, if you want to tell us about your recent presentation that you had?

Robert Leibowitz

Sure. Well, what I have done is I've had two presentations. I've talked to three different vendors, including the original and gotten pricing on them. And I have a few recommendations actually which way to go. So without further ado, I'm gonna share my screen.

Fawn Tantillo Oh, hang on. Oh, you can do it. Okay, good.

Robert Leibowitz

Can everybody see that? Yep. All right. So, it's just one slide. So, on some Citygate is the one we had a presentation from Fred with. And then on Monday, I had a meeting with Caliper. With and with our GIS staff, I also had a discussion with our sales rep from ESRI. ESRI does the map, all the mapping we do in the county, we have some done through ESRI with ArcMap. And that's so we have a contact with them. So. I was able to discuss with them. And just to go through it really quick.

So as you can see, City Gate was one we talked to First, it gets up to if everybody the decision that is going to have to be made is whether everybody wants to own license, or we want one license and or some hybrid thereof. So that's what's gonna happen Citi Gate they have this, they kind of have like a scaled pricing, but it comes out to 36,500 for 10 users, we actually need 11 licenses, you need at least one for staff, if everybody wants one. The web hosting was for that. Sharing that we saw, and the commenting. There's possibility that we might be able to serve that on their own, but otherwise, they charge \$7800 a month to serve it. And then there's also always a little license and support that they charge on top of that for \$6200. So, Citigate really comes in prohibitively price. So, I'm going to be recommending one of the other two options.

So, Monday, we met with Caliber. And they actually made us pretty good offer. They offered 11 licenses for \$20. That's the full program. And all these problems are very similar. They offer you know, they make a map, you draw a line, you make a map, he had population that looked at the data, they have an analysis tools that are all pretty similar in that realm. So they offered us that one license alone would be \$5000. They also have an option for what's they called magnitude online. And it's \$10,000 and supports up to 50 users. But what that is, is a very scaled down version or full software. And you can make some make a map, you can look at demographics, but all the analysis tools, reporting tools, it's kind of stripped down, you can share, we can share them amongst each other. But you need one license to really import all those different maps from that server. And to look at it all. Talking with IS [Ulster County Information Service], they seem to think that they could, they haven't, they don't have a number, but they think they probably have some server space that they could potentially host it on. Then...so, the cost associated would be negligible. I don't know what those are. Yeah. But that would

support 50 users. And I asked, I double verified with them today. So that would be for one license plus the web version, that'd be \$15,000. So it's quite a lot less than Citygate. Plus, it gives everybody the ability to do it. And also, it's web based. In that case, they don't have to have any software. None of these standalones are good for Mac, I checked, Andy, for you.

Andy Monk

Thanks for checking, I appreciate that.

Robert Leibowitz

You're welcome. So, they're all Windows based. The other option, I had a very frank discussion with ESRI. And what they suggested is buying a single license under the state contract. So that's \$4350. It's only \$150 off from normal price for state contracts. So, you know, and what they recommend, we're buying what they call viewer licenses, and those are each \$98. So, what you would have is everybody will be able to log in, it's online only as yourself, there's no software ever involved with it. It has all the analytical tools built into it. But if you buy one seat, then what you could do is you could do it heads up, and then everybody could comment on what's going on. I mean, after the map is produced, so they could at the leisure of their own house, they could look at it make comments, well, those comments will have to be through email, though. That's the thing. There's no like commenting function right within it, I don't believe I'd have to look at a little bit more. But so it's so there's definitely ways you could go for, you know, \$5,500 with either to Citygate or any of these versions, you could go with a single license, share all the maps, share all the data online, and then have people comment, That would be the inexpensive way to do it, or the Maptitude option, which has the online component where people could actually tweak and share maps. Plus, you have somebody to manage it. So those are the different ways. And I guess I let you all decide if you really want to go. And that's I think all I have to say.

One interesting thing about the caliper one is what the online tools you can, you can bring it in and you can compare it to plans as you do it, I believe the ESRI one you can do that, too. There's also a bit of an automated tool in the caliper. One, where if you they, they call these things seeds, so you take like a census block here, a little census block there, and you can create random maps. They're not the best maps, but there will give you starting points to work with. And there's a way to maybe easily generate a whole bunch of them and then pare down from there.

Sarah DeStefano

I just clarify that the ESRI version would be like one editing license and then licenses for us all to view it from home.

Robert Leibowitz

Yeah, that's, that's what they're really recommending. And that's kind of what we did. Last time when we did this. We basically we ordered nine licenses for the commission, but then nobody on the commission actually used it other than the staff. So whether that was due to tech limitations, or just getting, I think two or three of them tried to get and they only got so far and under own, they pretty much gave up and then we just all sat down, stare and then through this, now we have zoom, we don't

have zoom back then we just we literally sat down from a screen and went block by block, zoomed in and worked on it all together using one license.

Andy Monk

Yeah, I remember in a previous email Rob, you had you had mentioned that no one used the licenses that were purchased.

Robert Leibowitz Right. Yeah.

Andy Monk

And so, I wonder what the other members of the committee Think about that. Like, it seems probably prudent and certainly cost effective if we get one kind of main license and then go with other, more limited licenses so that the members could view the maps and look at them. But maybe I'm also ready to come back from my original position that I want the software on my own computer because it sounds like that was not really used in the last iteration. It worked well, to just do them all at the same time.

Robert Leibowitz

I guess with the, the helper one with the online function, it would be pretty basic, you draw lines and you don't have to know a program so it would be a little less cumbersome. Plus, I believe caliber is a lot better tech support and city gate those. So you do have that if you were running an issues.

Sarah DeStefano

I guess I I guess selfishly in a way I think it just speaking from my personal like time constraints of having a day job. To me, it would seem easier to perhaps there's a way of us splitting the difference to have, you know, half as many licenses available or a few more than just one at an office like accounting office, just by virtue of the fact that we would then probably have to either schedule a far in advance, to ask one of you to stay after work or go in during regular business hours, which would be pretty difficult for me, and probably the those of us that are working during, you know, a nine-to-five-ish sort of, you know, whatever your office hours are during the day. But I do understand that last time it wasn't used and that was a waste of money. I that said, I do foresee myself wanting to fiddle around with it in my free time to figure these maps out. So, I'm not sure how anyone else feels with it. But

Robert Leibowitz

Well, that's why I would if people want to fiddle, I would probably suggest the Maptitude, the online and then one main license option. This way, you can log in anytime a day or night and work on it, save your progress, move on another day.

Andy Monk

So, the Maptitude Limited License would allow the tinkerers of us all to go in and make some edits to the maps?

Robert Leibowitz

That's the way to create your own maps, we can share maps, and then you would be able to make your own versions of those maps.

Travis Rask

And then you would have control over the main, the main map, right?

Robert Leibowitz

Well, what I would have is I could bring it in, I could do analysis of those maps, I can compare the maps and, and do statistical and demographic analysis of it, you know, it compactness tests and all sorts of... so, I mean, I there'll be some capability. I mean, you'll be able to see the numbers, obviously, when you look at it, but you might not be able to use some of the more advanced tools.

Sarah DeStefano

Okay. Did you feel like the online version was significantly less technical, like, technically capable than the, you know, the caliber version? I mean, the city gate presentation seemed like there were lots of bells and whistles that we could play around to use the data in one way or another. And then it seems like their online version was significantly pared down from what their software version was like, do you feel like that's the case with the ESRI online versus the caliper software?

Robert Leibowitz

The ESRI online is a full version of it. So it's potentially because ESRI is like the leader in the industry in arc mapping so that it's potentially more powerful than those desk... desktops or desktop 2 versions of it. Potentially. I mean, I haven't sat down to actually demo them and play with them. The basics of them are all pretty much identical. You click you point, you add districts, you remove districts, you form districts, you know. They're all pretty straightforward. That way.

Sarah DeStefano

It seems like a drag and drop. I couldn't play with it myself, of course. Okay. Great.

Kenneth Panza

Speaking for myself, I'd like the ability to build do the analysis. And the full analysis, I just don't want to be a spectator to what work is being done by other people.

Sarah DeStefano I'm with you Ken, I agree.

Travis Rask

But that's something we can calibrate. Right, like we can do, we'll have online versions of caliper. Right. And then, Rob, you would have software for caliper. So, if we have questions based on our online maps, you will be able to maybe answer those?

Robert Leibowitz

Right. I mean, if there are certain reports, I can tell you what kind of reports I could run, I could probably run reports based on different maps, and then give them back to the committee. So that's the way it wouldn't be, you know, just don't just generate those reports.

Andy Monk

So, Rob, to clarify this the ESRI viewer license allow any editing? Or is it just a view that?

Robert Leibowitz It's just looking. Got it. That's just viewing.

Andy Monk

So, the caliper one provides a lot more opportunity for collaboration in it in a way that sort of makes budgetary sense. Is that accurate?

Robert Leibowitz

Right, I mean the biggest bang for your buck, if you all want to physically get and work on maps on your own, that's the best way to do it. I mean, \$20,000, though, for 11 licenses, if everybody wanted their own license, that's a possibility, too. And then they would have they can have, we'd have to figure out how to put it on computers or whether we have I don't know, if we can loan out computers from the county? That would be a whole other process. But we could look into that as a possibility to be certainly be a little bit more difficult. But...

Andy Monk

Do you think we could reach out to the folks that caliber and ask them to give us a demo and show us the difference between the desktop software and the online software? Are you able to do that?

Robert Leibowitz

Yeah, I mean, I've, I've seen it. I mean, you can look online or videos out there, if you want to see I can send out some links later..

Andy Monk

That'd be great. Yeah, because I think if, for my purposes, I think if I can get on and like look at the maps that we've created and make modifications as needed, but I don't necessarily need the whole suite of tools for my own purposes. And then we can run reports and see, you know, because I'm assuming if I make a map online, if you have the desktop license, you can take that map into your software and run the reports to make sure that it's correct.

Robert Leibowitz

That's exactly what would happen. There might be some small report kind of functionality in there. I haven't Delve that deep, I can show you some links, which I believe I have one link which has, which shows you all the functionality side by side of it. Actually, I should get that. Let me see if I can find that link. I had. Ah, here it is. I put this in the chat. This all you can look at this later. But it's basically a side by side look at the desktop version of aptitude versus the online one. So it shows you let me put that in there.

Andy Monk Great. Yeah, that's useful.

Fawn Tantillo Mr. Chairman, I will copy the chat at the end of the meeting and send it to everyone. Okay.

Andy Monk Thank you, Fawn.

So, to me, it seems like the caliper aptitude is our best option. It's just a matter of deciding what configuration of that we would want to do as a committee. Does that sound accurate to everybody?

Committee Members Yes. Yup.

Andy Monk

And then there was also the question of whether or not we wanted to have public, the public be able to create their own maps, I'm assuming that with either of the other two options, that's not possible, is that correct?

Robert Leibowitz

That's correct. And what I'm intrigued by is that, that \$10,000 gets you access to 50 licenses. So I don't so why don't we create one for each of the commission members, I have to look and I don't know, if we could create dummy accounts. That's a guest one guest two guests three, and, you know, same password, people did. But I don't know how that would work, or I wouldn't want people editing, you know, I don't know that we want that. So, we might just want to,

Travis Rask

I don't want anyone from the public. I mean, they can make their own maps, but they're not going to touch our maps. That's the whole point of us being on this commission.

Sarah DeStefano

I also feel like perhaps it's more a function of we can make maps and open them up for comment, and then we can change them as comments come in. I don't know that it's, it feels necessary to me, for us to have this commission, if the entirety of Ulster County can, you know, be that therefore then doing the exact same exercise that we are, I think it's good to have the public commenting, but perhaps as a function of informing us so that we can then make those decisions to change them.

Andy Monk

I agree with you, Sarah, because I think if they if someone creates a map that's just like 100% different than our maps, we don't necessarily get the information from them about their motivation for doing it that way. versus if we ask them to make verbal comments, that actually informs our work a lot more. And it will be really hard to kind of reconcile their totally different map with ours without that

information. So, I think it actually probably is a much more efficient way of gathering their comments to request like verbal comments, rather than allowing them. Absolutely,

Sarah DeStefano Absolutely. Absolutely.

Fawn Tantillo

I would just jump in for one second. As someone who is from the public side of it. And I know, I know, Michael Baden did the same thing. We went came into the office, and we there were some areas that were difficult to reconcile. And we both were approaching it from different angles, but we would go into the office and make our own maps. There also, so you could see the problems with certain areas. And I think it sort of drove our comments. I actually think when Michael Baden some maps was very close to the final map, they ended up adopting, because he had worked out several scenarios. Just I don't know if he wants to comment, but or if you want public comment, but I would imagine he's looking forward to doing the same thing this time.

Robert Leibowitz

Well, the problem is, is I don't know how much we could host and our license into department this time, because we do have another one station open because we don't have a employee there. But with COVID I don't think you've letting too many people into the office anytime soon. So I don't so the only option would be to do it online. Anyway.

Sarah DeStefano

It seems like we'd be approaching the cost of Citygate If we get the additional licenses of online support anyway, is that accurate? No, we're adding another \$10,000 to support 50 users. So it'd be \$30,000 versus \$36,500. Is that accurate?

Robert Leibowitz

Um, I mean, it's, it's one license for the 10,000. It supports up to 50 people. That's that. I don't know, if they have another package where you host more people than that, but they might I don't know.

Andy Monk

And, Rob, do you think it'll be possible to have one of those 50 users set up in such a way that, that maps could be created, but not edited? I mean, you know...

Robert Leibowitz

Well, I mean, if, if we opened up, I don't know, because I haven't really talked to them about guest accounts on it. So, let's say you had pub... say we tell... reserved five accounts that had guest access, and we published it to the web, and we said, hey, guess you can log in and do this. And people could edit other people's work. So that wouldn't work. Or, and I don't know, if there's a way to separate out their work from the Commission's work so that they couldn't see other people's work. I'd have to see what that means. I mean, you would be able to definitely tell that was a commissioner compared to some generic username account, though, at the very least. So

Andy Monk

Fawn, you went into the office and did the maps on a computer station there, right?

Fawn Tantillo Yes.

Andy Monk

Do we have any sense of when public buildings might reopen given that vaccinations are going as they are?

Fawn Tantillo

Not solidly. We're sort of preparing, in our office, for legislative meetings to be in person but, but we're struggling with how to get the public into those meetings. Like we may have to have in person meetings with legislators, as soon as the... the last Executive Order was only renewed for a few days, rather than for like a few weeks. So we're, we're getting ready for the legislators to have to meet in person. But yeah, having the public come in is a completely different.

Andy Monk Because we're not getting census data until August, right? At some point

Fawn Tantillo I think September, October.

Andy Monk

It's hard to make a choice, because I wasn't quite thinking about what you were saying Fawn. But it makes so much sense that being able to kind of monkey around with the maps is better than potentially my idea of just submitting verbal comments and saying something like I need, you know, because you can't see the information. So I I'm kind of at a loss. Does anyone else have a feeling about it?

Fawn Tantillo

I mean, there may only be a handful of people who want to come do that, in this day and age, you know, 10 years ago, people's comfort level, about doing things on a computer, I think is it may not be obvious to you, it just seems to be to me, but I think people are more comfortable with it been 11, you know, 10 years ago. And 11 licenses. You know, like if there were like, again, if it was just like Michael and I the way it was before we could certainly have shared a license, you know, remotely. I don't know, if multiple people could share a license and play around with it. But they might have to, you know, I'm not sure how that would work. If who would you if you only had like 11 licenses? Who would have access to them? You know, how do you do that fair in a fair way? If there are if you've got 50 licenses, and there were 60 people who wanted to have access to it? How do you share that, you know, 50 seems like overkill to me, but what if?

Sarah DeStefano

I guess I'm I guess I'm a little confused as to what the point of the commission is, if the whole public can make maps and that could be adopted? I, I guess I feel like we've all gone through a process of, you know, even just working together sort of vets the maps in a way that confirms that the process was done fairly and in a thoughtful way. And sort of opening it up to map making without the commentary. Like I I want public comment, but I feel like it should come through the commission rather than just sort of opened up to be editing. I think it having the entirety of the public make maps means that they're really Wasn't a purpose and having a commission, personally. Because we could all just be doing this in our free time. Otherwise, I just feel like we're maybe making this more complicated than it needs to be. Perhaps that's like a cruel way of looking at it. I think public comment is great. But there needs to be some efficiency about this too.

Andy Monk

I see that Mike has his hand up.

Mike Baden

Yeah, I apologize. I didn't, I didn't mean to speak. But I think I can add something to this if you'd like. Doing the maps wasn't so much that we were doing them and handing them in to be adopted. The at least for myself, and I think Fawn as well, if I remember correctly, we made maps and presented them to the commission, who then took them and utilize them in their discussions. And, and fun is 100%. Correct. Several of the districts that I came up with, ultimately ended up being pretty darn close to the final version, some of them were pretty much no brainers. Like the town of Rochester, was almost one district, just in itself, keeping it whole. And we added a little bit of hongxin, and boom, we had a district and the only thing is I think they moved it one census block different was the only change. So it's not so much to take the committee's power away, it's the same as public comment in a letter. But in this case, with a map, you can't really make public comment. So without access to the data, because until you sit at the computer and click on a census block, you don't know how many is going to add or subtract unless you have a written list of all the data in front of you. So if you can't manipulate the the, you're not manipulating the maps, think of it this way each person is creating their own map. And those maps become the public comments. So that's, that's the one thing Rob maybe remembers. There was a central computer in the planning office. And Rob, I know we came in, and we were able to work and leave and come back. Do you remember how our data was saved?

Robert Leibowitz

I let me go into a little bit, well, all your computer was saved right to that drive of that computer, or network drive. And then I think I may have looked at it. The point with the report redistricting is that there actually aren't that many ways to get the numbers to work. So the reason there are similarities between the map that the Commission put together and the maps that formed and Mike man put together as because there's only so many ways to get there, like you're going to see very quickly that Shandaken all of Hardenberg Denning are going to be what they are, are going to be on the district together or something to effect and there's really no other way to go about, or Rochester is gonna get split in half because of its population. So, there's, there's really not so that's what you're gonna find there's not going to be I, I would be surprised to see really wildly different maps. Let's put it that way.

Sarah DeStefano

I also feel like the, the, the demographic of our group that was chosen, you know, we had to satisfy certain requirements of being on the commission. And then the four of us that serve to pick the other three. You know, we really did go through data to choose people that we felt like were demographically representative to provide representation. And if we have no public comment, I feel like stated public comment is one thing. But if we have wide members of the public making maps, we don't we are now losing the the, the independence of the Commission in a way from other political forces Personally, I feel like that's open for potential there. I mean, we none of us are able to be state employees or public servants already. I think that there's a potential for that that makes me like Andy said earlier, someone could submit a map and we don't know what the motivation behind the map is because they didn't like right or state of purpose for what the motivation behind the map was.

Andy Monk I think I'm actually

Sarah DeStefano Sorry.

Andy Monk Oh, no, go ahead. Finish your, your thought.

Sarah DeStefano

I think maybe it, It feels like we're complicating something that I feel very confident that the seven people The Commission can, you know, accomplish this task with the help of the staff of Ulster County? Hmm,

Andy Monk

I think I'm actually going to go back on what I said, I didn't initially understand what the merit of having people create their own maps was. And I understand your concern, Sarah, that you don't want to be unduly influenced by people who are not on the commission. I think an important thing to remember is that ultimately, the math that goes into effect is actually entirely up to us. But I think I'm of the mindset that more information is always better. And so, as Rob said, there are only so many ways to do this and cut the district's out. But after hearing from funding from Mike, about how, you know, there were some problem areas, and I think, like, we'll come up with the eventual map, and it is entirely at our discretion what it is, but maybe someone who lives in that area, even if they are like a politician or the mayor, you know, like, we're not required to take any of that information into our map that we end up with in the end. But like, you know, I don't know that I've ever even been to San Diego. And so if there's something funky going on with the district line, and someone there has more, you know, insight into it than I do, I actually really appreciate that additional insight. But I think it's important to protect our maps that we make from editing from the public. And that's my one concern about setting up, you know, guest licenses is just to make sure that they don't have access to your map Sarah to like, move the line without you knowing. I feel like, yeah,

Robert Leibowitz

They wouldn't have access to her map to edit it, they might have it to bring into their account, if it's shared, and make their own version of it, they would never be able to undo what you did to the other. And the other thing is, if all members of the Commission have access to it, and say most of them decide to use the online version, then you're all working through those same problems that might conflict fun, then I've all had to go through and figure out how to make it work. So you're, you're getting in there, and you're, you're finding it out, too.

Andy Monk

Rob, do you remember how many members of the public made their own maps? Was just Mike and Fawn, or were there others, too?

Robert Leibowitz

I had one other person go walk in, look at for hands up in leave.

Fawn Tantillo

In the, in the end, the committee did their mapping publicly where the committee all sat for, I think it was like a real marathon Saturday, it might have been a couple of days. And, and literally the maps in public, in a public meeting, in front of everybody. In this instance, it might be on a zoom meeting where the public can watch you as you go through it. And in that instance, you know, there might be, you know, a chance for people in a chat to say, you know, what, if you add, you know, this census, in a census block, I think the blocks were numbered, you know, 452 and take away census blocks, 704, you know, you know, they, they might be able to give you some input if you were, I think in the end, whatever you do, it's going to be I suspect, then very publicly. So that's the most important thing, I think.

Andy Monk

I'm wondering if given that, I think we can expect, you know, somewhere between two and 10 people from the public to want to make their own maps, but I think 50 is certainly probably the upper limit of what we'd expect to see. And so I wonder if on our website, or we can somehow publicize the fact that if members of the public are interested in creating their own maps, they should email the commission, and we'll set them up with one of these 50 user licenses, would that work? Like specifically for them? Or is that creating a headache for ourselves or otherwise impossible?

Robert Leibowitz

I don't know the answer to that question. I think with it, I could set up licenses for I mean, the Maptitude I could set up one for everybody. And then maybe generic members of the public as well.

Andy Monk Okay. Cool.

Robert Leibowitz

I do, I'd have to go into the far more details and also through the weeds of figuring out the program itself.

Travis Rask

It sounds like magnitude is the program we're going with either way.

Andy Monk Is that...that would be my vote if we were voting on it now.

Travis Rask Yeah.

Andy Monk

Um, does...does anyone have any other questions or any further thoughts about any of this software, any of the discussion that we've just had?

Kenneth Panza

I just want to, you know, reassure or reassert, that I want the full capabilities to do the reports and the analysis whatever software we get.

Andy Monk Okay. So, Ken, are you saying that you'd want a full license instead of one of the online licenses?

Kenneth Panza Yes.

Andy Monk Okay.

Kenneth Panza The full capability. I don't want anyone else to have anything more than what I. Okay.

Robert Leibowitz

Whatever recommendation the commission ultimately decides, they'll have to the commission will have to make a request of the legislature for that amount of money, just so they're aware. But

Got it. All right. Well, in that case, let's talk about the creation of the subcommittee to review the software and, and come up with an eventual decision. I would very much be interested in being on that subcommittee. Who else would, would want to?

Sarah DeStefano I would be happy to serve on that as well.

Travis Rask Ken, would that something would you be interested in since you want to see the limitations and full capacity? Kenneth Panza

No, no real? I mean, I, I could go with any of these software packages or others? I mean, I may have no problem with dealing with the with the software, I just want to be sure I have the full capability. But if other people have preferences one way or the other? Yeah, I would. I'm certainly not going to object to that. And

Travis Rask I mean, I'm reviewing the software. If no one else wants to do it. That's not a problem either.

Andy Monk

So, Ken, that sounded a little bit like you're not interested in being on the committee but interested in having the full software. Is that accurate?

Kenneth Panza That's accurate.

Andy Monk Okay, great.

Kenneth Panza Whatever, whatever software packages selected, I want the full capability.

Andy Monk Perfect. Understood. Alright, so it's me and Sarah. Travis, do you want to you want to join us?

Travis Rask Yeah, why not? We had fun last time.

Andy Monk So, is anyone else interested in being on that subcommittee? Before we move on to?

Fawn Tantillo You can't have anybody else on the subcommittee, because then you'll have a quorum?

Andy Monk Oh, okay. Got it. Great. Fawn, so, we have to vote on that? Or can we just have it be the three of us?

Fawn Tantillo Um, I would make it a formal vote. Okay.

Andy Monk Um, can I do I need to? I don't know how this works. Do I need to call for someone to? Fawn Tantillo Someone can move for that to be your subcommittee.

Andy Monk Can I ask for someone to motion that that'd be the subcommittee?

Kenneth Panza I'll move that we accept the commission to establish a subcommittee to evaluate these various software options.

Andy Monk Thanks, Ken.

Fawn Tantillo And then the committee is going to consist of Andy, Sarah and Travis. And is there a second?

Sarah DeStefano Second.

Andy Monk

All right, all in favor? I think that looks unanimous, but I can't see all of you. Okay. Perfect. All right. Thanks, guys. So, we'll, Travis and Sarah, you and I will be in touch about setting up our...Rob, would you mind if maybe we included you on one of those meetings or something like that? Just to get your opinion. And potentially, or...

Robert Leibowitz

And if you want, if you want me to set up demos with the company, so you can see them all your stuff? We can do that. So, we can all discuss that. And

Travis Rask Yeah, because we've already seen Citigate last meeting, right?

Robert Leibowitz So only when you need two more demos to really view them all.

Sarah DeStefano Fine by me.

Robert Leibowitz Okay.

Andy Monk That'd be great. Thank you, Robert. Robert Leibowitz Thank you. All right.

Kathleen Waithe I have a question.

Andy Monk Yeah.

Kathleen Waithe

I'm a little confused. And we decide whether or not we're going with Sarah's method or Andy's method or what we're speaking about previously, in terms of opening up the maps to the public, etc, or is this decision at a late for a later date?

Sarah DeStefano

I think we're gonna figure it out. No, I think we're gonna figure out what the technological capabilities are. And maybe if we think it's cost prohibitive, prohibitive, so many of those licenses, particularly since Ken, Ken has shown interest, and I'm somewhat interested in having a full capability. You know, if it's cost prohibitive, we'll Personally, I think we can figure out how to get around that. But something tells me we're just trying to try and figure out really dig into the technological capabilities of these and having it available to us at home and to the public as well.

Kathleen Waithe Oh, I see. Okay.

Sarah DeStefano Would you agree with that Travis and Andy?

Travis Rask

Kathy, if you have... you ever have an opinion on something that we could run into the subcommittee, I, like, we are, you know, taking Ken's... You know, comments into consideration as well.

Kathleen Waithe

Well, I was kind of agreeing with what Sarah was saying earlier. That's what I wasn't. I was a little confused as to whether or not we decided which way we were going to go. But it's fine.

Sarah DeStefano

Does anyone else have a strong opinion either way, just so that we know going into considering these products?

Travis Rask

And obviously, we're going to report back to you guys before decision gets made. Because, you know, you guys are we're, we're the final say the whole group is the final say the commission is just or the committee is just to, you know, give our recommendations from what we've seen.

Kathleen Waithe Okay.

Sarah DeStefano

I think it's good to know, before we go into it to see what everyone's thoughts are.

Travis Rask

I agree. I mean, I'm, I'm more leaning your way as well, Sarah, I'm not. I mean, I like public comment, but I don't, you know, to have them given access to maps and have other people have say,

Kathleen Waithe

Its kind of complicates it a little. It does.

Andy Monk

Well, yeah. I mean, that's, that's how I felt going into the meeting, too. And then just hearing Fawn and Mike talk about their experiences, I did change my mind. But I think that definitely bear some further discussion, because I'm interested to figure that out. And like what Travis said, we'll meet as a subcommittee, and we'll make a recommendation to the larger commissioners, and then we'll vote whether or not we're going to actually go the way that we propose.

Kathleen Waithe Very good.

Andy Monk

Perfect. All right. So, the next item on the agenda then is an update on the progress of the website.

Fawn Tantillo

So, I will just report to you that the county legislature's website was separated from the, the rest of the county, I was unaware of this, because the looks of it didn't change. But that's why many of the links didn't work. So, we've hired our own company to manage our website. And But somehow, the county got still updated our website enough to add, I can show you they set up the format for the, the commission, I know, can you see this. So, all of the headings are there, we can certainly fill them out, I don't have the website open, this is just a snapshot of it. But like the meeting agendas, and minutes, there'll be posted in there, I just put all of them over to they could be posted, we can put a list of all of you with headshots, if you I think we see they're all have headshots, or maybe or not. Whichever you choose, but should have a little, like your name and a little bio, and the information. I don't know, if you I don't know that you want to put contact information on there. But um, you know, just like what town you're from maybe and, and a little bit about yourself, maybe a little paragraph. And then we could certainly put public input from the meetings of public comment that we get and have a running narrative like they did in 2011. With copies of draft, draft plans, and another and then the useful links could be maybe a link to your frequently asked questions or to, you know, census, the census data, the raw census data if people want it or other things you think should be in that those links are very easy

to add. Anything beyond that, that we want to add to this, I'm told if we're going to try to put it on the county's website, that the, the legislature again would have to approve funding for that.

So, the all of the links for 2011 have been corrected. And I believe everything has been labeled as a 2011 map, district map and whatnot. But I also the way to get to this is just from "district maps," and I really think it should say commissioned on reapportionment in the heading, but I don't know how difficult that will be to change. So we may want to put our subcommittee group together with, with the person who's doing our programming now and you know, if we could, if the county is going we may be able to put links to them if you decide to do let the public see the mapping and whatnot. We may be able to house that in the planning website and just put a link to it that way the county, folks, the county IT folks could I could do that. And that would be a big cost savings. But we can't let the county IT people make any changes to the legislature's website at this point. So I, that was all just shared with me this afternoon.

Robert Leibowitz

So, I just have a question. commissioned independent of the legislature, legislator's site,

Fawn Tantillo

That's where it was house before. Remember 2011. In 2011, the executive didn't even want you to be involved in it. Didn't want planning, because it was so controversial going from 33 legislators to 23 legislators. And everyone was suspicious that the executive was trying to control things behind the scenes. So that's why it's there. It's fine with me if you decide you want to move the whole thing to some to the county's planning website, but I have no control over that we'd have to get Dennis's permission to do that.

Robert Leibowitz

I was just suggesting they make their own site on the county side. That's Ulster County Commission not under planning at all. I would not do that.

Fawn Tantillo

Okay, well, we would need. Again, I'd have to talk. I didn't have time today to find out if that's possible. And apparently, as a legislative staff person, I'm not sure that that I have you know, that's something that it's up to the commission, what how do you folks feel about it? It would I think you would be nice if you had an independent website. I'm just not sure exactly how to make that happen for you. Without Dennis here

Travis Rask

On the website, but like, kind of like maybe Rob suggested an independent part, the county website, right.

Robert Leibowitz

I don't see why that would be an issue. If you just had Ulster County, New York goes less charter commission, I don't see why that wouldn't be. And all you would be doing is my understanding. And Dennis told me to mention this as that IS is ready for information. So all you have to do is give it to

them, and they'll post it for you. And I don't see why if if somebody on the commission was I don't know if they don't know if they can give edit access to somebody who isn't a county employee. This it is it's web based, it's for anybody it's edit, you just go in, it's an editor online, you just did it websites, I don't know if they could give somebody from the outside editing function, just have the county charge commission so that you can edit yourself too, or if you just have to give to staff. But if you're just giving them raw data, or just simply posting it for you, that shouldn't be too much of an issue.

Unknown Speaker

The Commission is seeking their own website, not under the legislature, I can get you in touch, who would it be Andy, maybe, or Regis was that

Travis Rask

He was really just a commission, or we just..Kathleen or Don, I believe we're off all three of them. We're working on that. Right?

Fawn Tantillo

We have a staff person in our office that can post the minutes and things. But I can certainly email the minutes and once you know the agendas to be posted, you know, rather than us, our staff person posting them if it's going to be on the county website. I don't think we have access to post anything on there from our office directly.

Fawn Tantillo

So, you let us know you let me know how you want to do it.

Regis Obijiski

Yeah, we can you hear me cuz I you folks hear me now? Okay, I I'm sorry. There's something wrong with my mic connection. I always I made a couple of comments earlier. And I guess, I guess it wasn't working on my end. We came up with we came up with some suggestions. And we thought that they were pretty good. If you think that they're pretty good. Let's just go with it. You know, and and if that if it's private, because you cannot change anything without legislative approval? Let's do it. What's the big deal? You know, we don't you know, I don't care who posts things, you know, fine. If you don't mind doing it, that look, let's just do it. So if it's if it's if it has to be private in order to get in or what we wanted, then let's just do it. I don't think this is a big deal. No,

Travis Rask

I agree with you. We just, you know,

Kenneth Panza

I think that's the right approach. Let's, let's not get tied up in the weeds of this internal stuff. Yeah,

Regis Obijiski

absolutely. Because you know if it has, if it has to be the same as it was and you know, we're all on his procrustean bed. You know, at No, why bother? Why bother making suggestions? You know? So let's go.

Kenneth Panza

Okay. No one has a problem with that they can go fix it. Right? Fine.

Regis Obijiski

Fine. So, Sarah, you had some ideas and thoughts on that and said, suggestions was that you or someone else? Where were we going? Okay, who was saying that? What am I? What are we going

Sarah DeStefano

It makes sense to have it on the county website, if we're able to also, even just the fact that we're about to spend a lot of money on software to ask for what sounds like a Squarespace sort of account subscription. might be, might be a little too much on top of that, as well. So, I'm open to having it the way that it is the easiest, personally, I agree.

Robert Leibowitz

My comment is you have fun, and you have their staff to put it up there already. Like add another person into the loop. So, you should just keep awareness. Yeah.

Andy Monk

Well, and can we find clever ways to incorporate all of our content within those categories? Like, for example, under the useful link section, can we put all the explanations and frequently asked questions in there?

Fawn Tantillo

I think so. Okay. And I don't know how much I don't know how expensive it would be to add, like another category that has frequently asked questions. I was just, you know, told to try to use this format that was in there. So, I guess the first thing we'll need from you then is all of you send me a little like paragraph of how you'd like to be described under members, because I think it's important for the public to know who you are.

Regis Obijiski

Yeah, what is this weird suggested one was no photos, because I think that sort of was a consensus, right? So, no photos, no headshots, and and up to three sentences. So it's not a lot. just describing who you are maybe where you're from, however you want to do it, three sentences. And we'll send it to you. How's that? Fine, that's perfect.

Travis Rask I love it.

Fawn Tantillo We'll start fleshing this out a little bit. Yeah, with what you've already. You look

Kenneth Panza

On other webs, other county websites, or even the legislative websites, I mean, those big categories, they could drop down and come up, you know, detail. There's really hardly any limit. But you know, you don't want to make too long a list. But the list branches off into subcategories and subcategories or subcategories. Pretty easy to build a website, once you have the basic architecture.

Andy Monk

With everything else that's going on, I think if we can incorporate the things that we feel we need to put on the website, if we can keep it simple and keep it on the legislature's website. If that is in fact, the simplest solution, I think we should probably do that. Assuming that we can get what we need on there.

Fawn Tantillo

We'll start out this way. And if it doesn't turn into something that works for you, then we'll then we'll look at another solution.

Sarah DeStefano

I also think that for purposes of people finding it, if they Google search it, the current site may be populating in a Google search already. And they would be finding a blank website versus something that we create elsewhere. So, it actually for purposes of people finding the information even makes more sense. But it would take some tinkering for of us trying to get the Google result to be higher up. I think, too. So just some thoughts in that regard.

Andy Monk

Totally. I like it. Great work, folks. Also, when. you Google it, the first result is still the 2011. commission. I just did that probably because it has content in it. But I did find the 2021, which is currently blank, but maybe we'll get up in those search results. Once we've added some content there.

Sarah DeStefano We should all search for it when it happens.

Fawn Tantillo

If I hit any snags. I won't get hold of Regis, Kathy and Donna and run my questions pass them. Is that all right.

Andy Monk Sounds good to me.

Unknown Speaker Good.

Andy Monk All right. Any other thoughts about the website or any suggestions or comments?

Kenneth Panza

Oh, it looks good. Yeah.

Andy Monk

You guys, we're just cruising through this agenda tonight. So that's,

Kenneth Panza

At least things aren't carved in stone. I mean, want to rearrange it? I mean, that's easy enough to do.

Andy Monk

Absolutely, we can always change it if we decide we want to down the road. Great. So then the next item on the agenda is the municipality meetings. Um, I had a chance to review the letter on the script, which I thought looked great. So, thank you for putting that together. My one comment is that we might want to push back our requested deadline to a later date since we're already in April. And I think the original text of the letter requested a response by the end of the month.

Regis Obijiski

Well, yeah, that that's if we if we acted, you know, if we were able to, to act on it sooner rather than wait, wait for a monthly waiver on a monthly meeting, but yeah, I mean, that makes that makes perfect sense. You know, some of the assumptions that, that we went over, I'm talking about, you know, Kathy, and Donna and myself, one of the big things is that, we're assuming that most of you still be held virtually zoom meetings. And I know, I know that municipalities are opening their meetings to the public right now. So that changes things and it might change our willingness to hit, you know, every single municipality. Hmm. Okay. So, you know, another assumption that we made was that, that that of each of the commissioners is willing to do this. And it could be a lot of time and a lot of work. If it's not virtual, it's simple. It's 20 minutes of our time, you know, just logging in. But if we're, if we have to try it out to you know, this town or that city, then it could be that could be a lot tougher. So that's an assumption that maybe changing not maybe it is changing. So, I don't know, what do you think, is this is this still doable at the having municipal meetings where we attend? When I say we, Kathy, and Donna, you know, jump in on us, but we had suggested, you know, to commissioners, right, for each of the meetings? I mean, it maybe it may be the case, given, given the complexity of everybody's, everybody's personal professional schedule, that that may not always be possible. But we think that that's, that's preferable. So, is that still, is that still a fair, fair assumption to make for everybody?

Kenneth Panza Yeah, I think that's right.

Kathleen Waithe Yeah. Minimum, at least two?

Sarah DeStefano

I'm assuming these are mostly in the evenings anyway, would that is that accurate? Or are they? I'm assuming they're not during the day. Is that correct?

Fawn Tantillo Correct.

Regis Obijiski I think they're mostly at night, aren't they? Aren't they Fawn?

Fawn Tantillo

Yes, the earliest one Saugerties village. It starts at 530. I made a list of all of the towns and when they meet, some of them meet twice a month, which gives you a few more options. Most of them look like they're Tuesdays, well, I guess it does kind of cross all days of the week, I'll send out this. It's like an Excel spreadsheet. Let's see if I can share that.

Sarah DeStefano

Ultimately, my, my point, though, was that I'm still open to it, even if it's in person as we go forward. But I just was curious when, when the meetings were,

Fawn Tantillo

Yeah, they're all... most of them are like six or seven at night. Those are the town meetings, and the villages in the City of Kingston at the bottom,

Andy Monk

It's actually less than I was expecting, which is kind of good news.

Sarah DeStefano

I think too, that we can probably figure out how to do this from, like, a county location standpoint, so that those of us in the north end of the county do the ones of the north and those in the south to the south. And we may have more people in like the mid then in north to, you know, maybe split it up with the South a little bit, but I think it seems doable.

Kathleen Waithe In that regard, personal.

Regis Obijiski

Or the other variable is, you know, we're asking, we're asking the town supervisors, mayor's whoever this is, you know, to invite us, and could you give us a couple of dates, that that you'd be willing to sacrifice 2020 minutes of your, your agenda for us. And so we have to kind of when they when they do that, and, and we're gonna have to put together another spreadsheet to see who can plug in to each of these, each of each of these meetings. And so, it might be a question of time, as much as it is location.

Sarah DeStefano

You know, we, when we were working, Travis, Andy and I were working on choosing the additional three committee members at the beginning, we use Google Sheets to sort of collaborate together. And then that could be something we utilize as well to kind of collect the answers and respond in real time

in between, you know, monthly meeting dates also, um, I think it's just that Fawn needs to have access so she can document have document retention, and then the final document.

Fawn Tantillo

I believe, Scott, set that up for us. I don't have the... this skill set to set that up for you but I'll try.

Sarah DeStefano

I mean, I I don't want to take away the work of the subcommittee that does that reaches Kathy and Donna. But if, if you need any assistance, setting up a Google Sheet, I am happy to also extend some training on that. And some help with that as well. It's the three of us would raise their hands. And it's actually a lot more straightforward. But it's not a product that everyone uses all the time. So, I'm happy to assist with that. Okay,

Fawn Tantillo

Let me... before I'll forward that, that one spreadsheet that I made to all of you. And then how do you want me to put together like a letter.

Regis Obijiski

That way, we drafted a letter for you, and you could you know, whether or not you actually use that, we just we just said, here's the here's the sample letter that you sent out to everybody. And let's see if it covers the bases, you know, you would you would know, probably better than we know, what are those? What are those bases? And they just send the letters out?

Fawn Tantillo Okay.

Kenneth Panza

I would just make one suggestion to the letter that is when it says we're requesting a meeting, maybe phrase that that we're offering to come?

Travis Rask Yeah, like you can? Yes, I agree.

Kenneth Panza That's a great, making it request is more of an offer. Yeah. That gives them a chance to turn us down.

Regis Obijiski Right? You'd be really missing out if you didn't invite us.

Travis Rask Exactly. Right. Andy Monk

Any other, any other thoughts about the municipality meetings? So, I think we're we've got a pretty good handle on it. So, we'll put together a spreadsheet that we can all access of the different meeting dates. I am looking at the letter right now. And then like I said, to me, it looks, looks great. So maybe, would it be helpful if I re sent it to everyone? later tonight, and we can all just make any final comments we have before sending it out? Please don't?

Fawn Tantillo

That'd be great. I don't remember seeing it. I'm gonna have to look through my emails.

Andy Monk I'm going to add that as a thing to do.

Kenneth Panza I thought everyone else had this right at their fingertips. I had to really search for it this afternoon.

Andy Monk

Perfect. Great. So, I will go ahead and send that out to everyone after the meeting. And anything else on municipalities? I already asked that question, but I'm asking again, sorry. Perfect.

Regis Obijiski

The just the other thing. Andy is the is the script. I know you mentioned it. And it again, it's not a slavish script. It's just one that hits some of the major points that we really need to cover as we attend to the attendees of MIDI. So, if you want to send that out also. So

Andy Monk I think I'll just resend that attachment that you sent us.

Regis Obijiski Perfect.

Andy Monk

On March 21. Yeah. Thank you. Thank you for putting that together. That's I mean, it was really thorough and really great. Okay, so then the next agenda item is to discuss our schedule for the next meeting.

I feel like these monthly large committee meetings are working for right now, because we haven't really started our work in earnest. And so, I, I would propose that we do it again in May. How does everyone else feel about that?

Travis Rask Yeah, okay. Great. Andy Monk So I'm fine. We have the law scheduled already, right?

Fawn Tantillo Yes, it would be the second is second Wednesday in May, which is the 12th.

Andy Monk Okay,

Fawn Tantillo At six o'clock.

Andy Monk Perfect.

Fawn Tantillo

Why it's not on my other calendar. But I know it's on the and the Chairman of that meeting will be Regis with Ken is the Deputy Chair in case, or the Vice Chair rather if we just... doesn't make it for any reason. Um, so agenda items can be a continued discussion of the GIS mapping or like a report from that subcommittee, an update on our progress with the website. And then the town municipal meeting scheduled by then should be starting to fill out.

Kenneth Panza

How are we gonna? Are you gonna send out the letter based on what we said today? Or do we have to approve that letter before it goes out?

Andy Monk I think I'm gonna send it out to everyone one more time, Ken just to have a fresh eyes on it. And then if everybody

Kenneth Panza And then if everybody likes it, we, we'd have to approve the sending the letter out?

Andy Monk Oh, I'm hoping that we can just approve it by email to send it out.

Travis Rask Yeah, I'm okay with approving by email. Okay, so

Fawn Tantillo You can't take a vote by email, but you certainly can agree that you know to, to. I would give somebody final approval of the letter. Regis Obijiski

Maybe you got my I would my vote would be to give it to Fawn because she'd be receiving it. This is a letter, you know.

Travis Rask

Yeah, I agree. We don't need to make this more complicated now.

Sarah DeStefano

No, you already sort of agreed to send it out anyway. It's just yeah.

Fawn Tantillo We'll get it. We'll get it out then. And get started to get feedback from the towns

Unknown Speaker Right. All right.

Fawn Tantillo

Great. And like tonight you did you can update the agenda when we you know, the night of the meeting if something else comes up that you want to add.

Andy Monk

Alright, so, next is any new business if anyone has any new business they'd like to discuss? Nope. Is there any old business that anyone would like to review?

Okay, well, that is what's on the agenda for this evening. If anyone like to motion to adjourn, we can go ahead and do that.

Kenneth Panza I'll make a motion to adjourn.

Andy Monk Motion. Second, Perfect. All in favor.

Committee Members Aye.

Andy Monk Adjourned. Thanks.