

AGENDA ITEM #: 21-09
COUNCIL MTG OF: January 19, 2021
FROM: Dave Caron, Town Administrator
OFFERED BY: Administration
PREPARED BY: Administration
SUBJECT: Citizens Petition

INTRODUCTION

The Council is alerted to the submission of a Free Petition pursuant to Section 3.1(A) of the Town Charter.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

Please see comments within this report.

BACKGROUND

Corinne Dodge of Warner Hill Road has submitted an individual petition to the Town Council for their consideration. The petition requests the Council to take a position on the upcoming redistricting at both the town and state levels; redistricting is mandatory at the State level at the conclusion of the decennial census which most recently was completed in 2010.

Section 1.5 of the Town Charter maintains the four Council districts, and requires the Council, if necessary, to adjust and establish new boundaries based on decennial Census data. The Charter further allows the Council to establish its own rules and procedures governing this process.

DISCUSSION

Section 3.1 (A) of the Town Charter allows for the submission of Individual Petitions to the Town Council: The Town Council shall receive all petitions which are addressed to them and signed by a registered voter and may, in their discretion, take such action in regard to such petitions as they deem necessary and appropriate.

Town Counsel has opined that, under the language of Section 3.1(A) the Council has wide discretion acting upon petitions, including, but not limited to:

- 1) Adopting the petition as submitted;
- 2) Rejecting the petition;
- 3) Amending the petition;
- 4) Taking no action on the petition.

FISCAL IMPACT

Staff has not identified any fiscal impact associated with this petition.

RECOMMENDED ACTION BY COUNCIL

The Council is required to receive the petition, which requirement is met by placement of Resolution #2021-008 on the agenda. Beyond the actual receipt, the Council is not required to take any additional action.