

One act made in the tenth year of the reign of his present majesty, intit[u]led “An Act to impower the inhabitants of the town of Newburyport, belonging to the several religious societies within the same, to raise money for defraying ministerial and necessary charges;” one act made in the eleventh year of the said reign, intituled “An Act for impowering the commissioners and assignees of the estates of concealed and absconding debtors, and all others concerned, to compleat the business assigned them by an act made and passed in the thirty-first year of the reign of his late majesty King George the Second, intituled ‘An Act providing remedy for bankrupts and their creditors,’” —

Act for defraying ministerial charges in Newburyport. 1769-70, chap. 13.

Act relating to absconding debtors. 1770-71, chap. 12.

Be it therefore enacted by the Governor, Council and House of Representatives,

That the before-mentioned acts near expiring, be continued, with all and every clause, matter and thing therein respectively contained, shall be in force until[1] the first day of May, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five, and from thence to the end of the then next session of the general court, and no longer. [Passed July 14.]

Continued to May, 1775, &c.

CHAPTER 25.

AN ACT FOR THE SUBJECTING THE INHABITANTS OF A PART OF THE TOWN OF DANVERS, CALLED THE NECK OF LAND, HEREAFTER DESCRIBED, TO THE CHARGE OF MAINTAINING AND SUPPORTING CERTAIN BRIDGES AND HIGHWAYS.

WHEREAS unhappy divisions and controversies have arisen in the town of Danvers, in the county of Essex, relative to their highways and bridges; and the inhabitants of that part of the said town, which is a neck of land making the northerly or north-easterly corner or skirt of the south parish in said town, have come to a final and amicable compromise and settlement of such divisions and controversies with their brethren of the other resid[uary][ing] part of said town, touching said highways and bridges, — for the ratification of which, and making the same compromise and settlement valid and binding in law, they have mutually expressed their desire; now, for the closing and putting an end to all such divisions and controversies for the future, and in order to accomplish the good purposes of union and harmony in said town, —

Preamble.

Be it enacted by the Governor, Council and House of Representatives,

[SECT. 1.] That the neck of land, as hereafter bounded and limited, being the northerly or north-easterly corner or skirt of the south parish in Danvers, in the county of Essex, and the inhabitants thereof, be and the same neck of land and inhabitants are, and forever hereafter shall be, subject to and charged with the maintainance, support and keeping in repair of the bridge built over Waters’s River, so called, in said Danvers, and also of the highway laid out by the selectmen of said Danvers, and confirmed by the court of general sessions of the peace within and for said county, — from Porter’s Corner, there, so called, to the easterly end of said Waters’s Bridge, — for the more convenient passing of the inhabitants of said neck of land to and from the place of public[k] worship in the south parish aforesaid, and other useful purposes; and also of all and any other highways and bridges that shall, at any time ever hereafter, at the special instance

Inhabitants of the neck of land herein described, to support and keep in repair the bridge over Waters’s River;

— and of such highways and

bridges as may be hereafter ordered on the neck aforesaid.

and request of the inhabitants of said neck of land, or by the court of general sessions of the peace within and for said county, be opened and laid out, or erected and built, anywhere within the boundaries and limits of said neck of land, containing by estimation three hundred acres, bounded as follows; viz^[1], begin[n]ing at the bridge by John Verry's, in Danvers, commonly called Crane-River Bridge; thence, run[n]ing down the channel till it comes to [to] Lieut^[1]. Thomas Stevens's land, about thirty poles above the mill-dam, by a cove in the mill-pond; thence, run[n]ing on a strait line, as said Stevens's fence now stands, till it strikes Waters's River, near the bridge, upon the west side, and across said Waters's River to high-water mark; thence, down said Waters's River to Frost-fish-Brook River, so called, at low-water mark; thence, up the channel of said river, to the bridge called Frost-fish-Brook Bridge, on Ipswich road; thence, on the eastern side of said road, to Crane-River Bridge above mentioned.

Be it further enacted,

Inhabitants of said neck empowered to hold meetings to choose a clerk,—for other purposes:

[SECT. 2.] That from henceforth, forever, the freeholders and other inhabitants of said neck of land be, and they hereby are, authorized and empowered to hold public[k] meetings, for to chuse a clerk to record their votes; and for the laying and levying of taxes upon the estates, and inhabitants and occupiers and improvers of land, within the boundaries of said neck of land, from time to time, and at all times, for the purpose of supporting and repairing said highway[s] and bridge, and all and any other highways or bridges to be erected or laid out, within the boundaries of said neck of land as aforesaid; and also for the choice of a treasurer for the receiving and paying of all the monies to be hereafter laid and levied, as aforesaid, within said neck of land for the purposes aforesaid; and also for the choice of three assessors of the tax and taxes, which shall at any time hereafter be found or judged necessary; and also a collector or collectors to gather the same, to be paid into the hands of the treasurer according to the direction of his warrant for the purposes aforesaid; and also a surveyor or surveyors of the said highway and bridge, and of all or any other highways or bridges laid out or erected at any time hereafter as aforesaid: and every such clerk, and all other officers aforementioned, being proprietors of land lying within the said boundaries of said neck of land and inhabitants commonly there resident, shall be under oath to the faithful performance of their respective offices; and they are hereby empowered to do, act and proceed, in and upon all matters and things properly arising and occurring within their special department, relative to the aforesaid way and bridge, and all or any future highways or bridges, within said boundaries, as aforesaid, in as full and ample a manner, and to all intents and purposes, as the other officers in said Danvers shall or may by law do, act, and proceed, upon similar matters and things arising and occurring within their department relative to highways and bridges; and the same freeholders and other inhabitants are hereby ordered and empowered to meet for the first time, for the purposes aforesaid, on the first Monday of September next.

— to choose a treasurer, and assessors and a collector of taxes;

— surveyor of highway;

— to be under oath;

— to have the same power as like officers in the town of Danvers.

First meeting, on the first Monday of September.

[SECT. 3.] And all future meetings of the same freeholders and inhabitants shall be called, from time to time, and at all times, by the assessors for the time being, by posting up a notification, in some public[k] place within said neck of land, seven days before such meeting; and all such freeholders and inhabitants being so met and assembled in public[k] meetings; shall be, and they are hereby, authorized and empowered to proceed and act upon the premises, to all intents and

purposes, in the same manner as town meetings in this province usually proceed on similar occasions.

And be it further enacted,

[SECT. 4.] That the said neck of land, lying and bounded and limited as aforesaid, and the inhabitants thereof, shall not at any time hereafter be charged with, subject or liable to, any charge or charges, tax or taxes, rates or assessments (but therefrom shall forever hereafter be wholly exempted), for the erecting, building, laying out, maintainance, support or repairs, of all or any bridge or bridges, highway or highways, that now are, or at any time hereafter shall or may be, erected, built or laid out within said town of Danvers, and are or shall be without the boundaries, aforesaid, of said neck of land.

Inhabitants of the Neck, exempted from the support of highways and bridges in other parts of Danvers.

And be it further enacted,

[SECT. 5.] That the said town of Danvers lying without the boundaries, aforesaid, of said neck, and the inhabitants on such land, shall not at any time hereafter be charged with, subject or liable to, any charge or charges, tax or taxes, rates or assessments (but therefrom shall forever hereafter be wholly exempted and freed) for the erecting, building, laying out, maintainance, support or repairs of all or any bridge or bridges, highway or highways, that now are, or at any time hereafter shall or may be, erected, built or laid out within the boundaries, aforesaid, of said neck of land, unless laid out at the request of the inhabitants of said town of Danvers living without the boundaries of said neck of land.

Town of Danvers exempted from the support of highways and bridges within the bounds of the Neck.

And be it further enacted,

[SECT. 6] That Benjamin Prescott, Esq^[r], be and hereby is empowered to issue his warrant, directed to some principal inhabitant of said neck of land, requiring him to call a meeting of said inhabitants, on the first Monday of September next, for the purposes aforementioned.

Benjamin Prescott, Esq., empowered to issue his warrant.

[*Passed July 14.*]