

1712-13, chap. 9. Ann, intituled “An Act directing how meetings of proprietors of lands lying in common and undivided* may be called”; and that such proprietors, when so assembled, shall have full power, by the votes of so many of them as own the greater part of the interest of all those proprietors who shall be so assembled, to chuse such officers as they shall judge they stand in need of: *provided*, such officers shall be no other than such as the proprietors of lands lying in common and undivided are by law impowered to chuse — and also to pass and act on all such matters and questions as the said proprietors of the lands in the said Ashfield which have been laid out and brought to severalty are, by the act first mentioned, impowered to do. [*Passed March 9, 1774.*]

To choose such officers as they shall judge necessary, &c.

CHAPTER 25.

AN ACT TO ENABLE THE TOWN OF STOUGHTON AND THE DISTRICT OF STOUGHTONHAM TO SELL CERTAIN LANDS LYING WITHIN THE SAID DISTRICT OF STOUGHTONHAM, CALLED MINISTRY LANDS, LYING NEAR A PLACE CALLED COW HILL.†

Preamble.

WHEREAS it has been represented and made to appear to this court that, at a meeting of the proprietors of the town of Dorchester, February the 11th, 1705-6, it was voted that seventy-five acres of land should be laid out for the use of the ministry, forever, for the benefit of those ministers that shall be ordained in that place, from time to time; viz^[1], in the land belonging to said Dorchester, beyond the Blue Hills, as appears by said Dorchester records; which land the said proprietors have laid out in a remote part of their land adjoining southerly on the county line, and now lieth in the [*said*] district of said Stoughtonham, near a place known by the name of Cow Hill, as appears by the plan thereof; and whereas, it has been represented to this court that, if said land were sold for the most it would fetch, and the money arising by the sale thereof were improved for the uses aforesaid, and no other, it might be of great advantage to the ministers now settled in said town and district, or that shall be hereafter settled, as well as to the inhabitants of said town and district, —

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

A committee of Stoughton and Stoughtonham empowered to sell seventy-five acres of land, and give deeds.

[SECT. 1.] That the said town of Stoughton and district of Stoughtonham be and hereby are impowered to make sale of the said seventy-five acres of land, for the most it will fetch; and that Elijah Dunbar, Esq^[1], Abijah Upham, and Christopher Wadsworth, of said Stoughton, and Samuel Bird, and Joseph Hewins, Esq^[1], of said Stoughtonham, be a committee to sell said land, and to give a deed or deeds of sale of the same to the purchaser or purchasers thereof, in behalf of said town and district, and receive the money therefor, or take sufficient bonds for the same on lawful interest for one year next coming, with sufficient sureties; and that said committee account with the town of Stoughton and district of Stoughtonham for said money or bonds when thereto required.

* The words “and undivided” are not in the title of the act referred to.

† The engrossed act was never sealed.

And be it further enacted,

[SECT. 2.] That the neat proceeds arising from such sale shall be put out to lawful interest, on good security, by the selectmen of the said town of Stoughton and district of Stoughtonham, for the time being, or the major part of them, for the use and benefit of the Congregational ministers that are or shall be regularly settled within the limits mentioned in said grant, forever; the interest thereof to be paid to each of them, in equal proportion, annually, during the term of their ministry: the said bonds or securities to be lodged in the hands of the treasurer of the town of Stoughton, and the said ministers to draw the interest arising therefrom, annually, by order of the selectmen of the town of Stoughton and district of Stoughtonham, or the major part of them. [*Passed March 5, 1774.*]

Net proceeds of such sale to be put out to interest by the selectmen, for the use of Congregational ministers of the town and district.

CHAPTER 26.

AN ACT FOR DIVIDING THE TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD, AND ERECTING THE WESTERN PART THEREOF INTO A SEPERATE TOWN BY THE NAME OF WEST SPRINGFIELD.

WHEREAS, by reason of the great extent of the township of Springfield, the remote settlements, disputes, controversies, and different interests of the inhabitants thereof, the difficulty and often impracticability of their assembling in town meetings, for elections and other necessary purposes, by reason of the great river Connecticut almost equally dissecting the township, it is necessary that there be a division thereof,

Preamble.

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

[SECT. 1.] That that part of the township of Springfield lying on the west side of Connecticut River, and the inhabitants there, be constituted and erected into a distinct town by the name of West Springfield, and be invested with all the powers, privileges, and immunities which, by the laws of this province, towns have and enjoy.

Erected into a distinct town by the name of West Springfield.

Provided,—

And be it further enacted,

[SECT. 2.] That it shall not be lawful for the said town of West Springfield, or any parish or precinct there, at any time hereafter to assess or tax the lands or estates, of any inhabitant or inhabitants of the town of Springfield, situate or lying in that part of the great and general field, so called, on the west side of Connecticut River, which is and lyes southward of a line running from the ferry over said river, at the Upper Wharf, so called, to the pond called Turtle Pond, in said field, and thence to the west end of the hill called New-Field Hill, and thence to the ferry over Agawam River near Moses Leonard's dwelling-house, for any rates, duties or charges whatever, the same being within the nominal limits of the said town of West Springfield, notwithstanding: and that all lots, lands and estates whatever, lying within the said great and general field southerly of the line aforesaid, and every part and parcel of the same — the owner and proprietor or proprietors whereof shall, for the time being and at any time hereafter, be an inhabitant or inhabitants of the said town of Springfield — shall stand chargeable and taxable, and be charged

Lands lying in the general field on the west side of the river, not to be taxed by West Springfield;

— all such lands to be taxed by the town of Springfield.