

BOSTON TOWN RECORDS, 1760.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in Public Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil-Hall on Monday the tenth day of March AD 1760.

Voted that this Meeting be Adjourned 'till to Morrow Morning nine o'Clock in the forenoon.

Tuesday Morning nine o'Clock the Town met according to Adjournment.

John Phillips Esq^r.
Joseph Jackson Esq^r
John Rowe Esq^r.
Mr. John Scollay
Royal Tyler Esq^r.
Cap^t. Newman Greenough
Cap^t. Solomon Davis
Mr. Joseph Jackson
Mr. Samuel Austin
Mr. William Cooper
Cap^t. Hopestill Foster
Mr. John Mico Wendell

were chose Firewards for the Year ensuing.

[453.] At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston legally qualified and warned in Public

Town Meeting Assembled at Faneuil-Hall on Tuesday the 19th. day of May AD 1760.

Then Voted that this Meeting be Adjourned to three o'Clock in the Afternoon.

Three o'Clock P.M. the Inhabitants Assembled.

Voted unanimously that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given for all Public Donations that have been made for the Relief of such Persons as suffered by the great Fire that happened in Town the 20th. of March last, and also for all private Donations that have been made for the same purpose. And that this Vote be made known by inserting it in all the Public Prints.

The Town proceeded to consider what Methods are best to be taken to prevent the Spreading of Fires, and for the more speedy . . . extinguishing of 'em, also of securing Goods Merchandizes &c^a, and [455.] thereupon Voted that the Gentlemen the Fire-

wards of the Town be and hereby are appointed a Committee to consider of this Affair and Report their Opinion what method is best for the Town to take for the purposes aforesaid, and Report the same to the Town.

On the Article in the Warrant viz^t. "Whether the Town will give directions that the Pump in the Well near Dock Square be Repaired, and how the Expences thereof be paid" Voted that this Affair be left to the Selectmen to do therein what they may think proper.

The Article in the Warrant viz^t. To consider of the Petition of sundry Inhabitants "that the Town would apply to the Parliament of Great Britain for a Grant to be made for the Relief of such Inhabitants as suffered by the great Fire the 20th. of March last, and also to such of His Majesty's Subjects for further Relief as the Town may think proper," was proceeded upon, and thereupon Voted that John Thomlinson and William Bollan of London Esq^r. be and they hereby are appointed Agents for this Town in order to make Application at Home, in such way and manner as they may think proper for obtaining Relief for the poor distress'd Sufferers that were burnt out by the great Fire which happened in Town the 20th. of March last,

Voted that the Selectmen be a Committee to consider what directions may be proper to be given to the Town Agents in this Affair, & prepare a suitable Letter to be sent to the Agents thereupon, and Report the same at the Adjournment of this Meeting.

Voted that the Selectmen be and hereby are appointed a Committee to make such Application to any of His Majesty's Subjects on this Continent or in the West India Islands for further Relief as they may judge proper.

[456.] Voted that the Gentlemen and Merchants in this Town be and they hereby are desired to write to their Correspondents abroad, and use their utmost Interest with them to afford some assistance towards making up the great Loss sustained by Fire in this Town the 20th of March last.

The Article in the Warrant viz^t. "To know the mind of the Town about clearing and opening the Streets and Lanes that have been or may be laid out in that part of the Town that has been lately demolished by Fire, and determine how the Charges arising thereby may be paid," was taken into Consideration and after a considerable Debate thereon, it being moved and seconded the following Question was put viz^t. Whether the new Highway or Street that is proposed by the Commissioners to be laid out thro' part of Mr. John Wheatley's House-Lot fronting King Street and to run back to the South-East near the House Lot of Benj^a. Hallowell Esq^r. will be for the Interest and Convenience of the Town? Voted in the Negative by a great Majority. Also Voted that the Selectmen be desired to inform the Commissioners of said Vote pass'd.

The Article in the Warrant viz^t. "Whether the Town will make Application to the General Court that the Taxes of such Inhabitants, as were burnt out, or that sustained Losses by the late Fire may be Abated, was Considered and thereupon Voted that the Selectmen be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to make

Application to the General Court for an Abatement of said Taxes accordingly.

The Committee appointed the 13th. ins^t. to consider what directions may be proper to be given to John Thomlinson and William Bollan Esq^r: Agents for [460.] the Town and to prepare a suitable Letter to be sent 'em, now Report a Draft of a Letter for that purpose which being Read and Amended, Voted that the same be Accepted, said Letter as amended being in the Words following viz^t:

Boston New England May 16th. 1760.

Gentlemen,

We suppose you are not unacquainted with the great Calamity that has befallen this Metropolis, in the late Fire the 20th. March last, which has reduced a great part of the Houses and Estates of the Town to ruin.

The General Assembly of this Province mov'd with the sight of such distress have made humble Application to His Majesty on behalf of the Sufferers, and have desired his Excellency Governour Pownall who soon Embarks for England to present their Address to His Majesty upon this occasion, and to use his good Offices in obtaining the Relief pray'd for, and in remitting what shall be so obtained, but tho' the Town think that such an Application to His Majesty comes with much more Advantage from the Governour and both Houses of Assembly, than it would have done from themselves, yet, so extensive is the Damage sustained that they cannot forbear to entreat the Assistance and relief of their private Friends in Great Britain in behalf of the unhappy Sufferers: they have accordingly Voted that every Gentleman in Town be desired to use his Interest with his Correspondents for the purpose aforesaid, and further we are to acquaint you of the Choice the Town at their Meeting on the 13th. instant made of you as their Agents to Solicit and make application in any way and manner you think proper upon this occasion, as also to receive any Donations that may be lodged in your hands in Consequence of a number of Letters wrote here by the Merchants in general to their several Correspondents in London and other parts of Great Britain to obtain relief for the many distress'd Families amongst us some of whom from Affluent and many from easy Circumstances are by this sore Calamity reduced to great straits and indigence, the Monies you may receive for this charitable purpose you are desired to remit to the [461.] Selectmen and Overseers of the Poor of the Town of Boston.

Your Characters leave us not the least room to doubt Your readiness to employ your good Offices upon this occasion we therefore think it needless to say any thing to excite your Compassion being assured your Breasts have a tender feeling for the distress'd and are warm with every generous and benevolent Sentiment.

We are,

Gentlemen,

In the Name & by order of the Town Your
most Obed^t. hum : Servants.

JOHN THOMLINSON &
WILLIAM BOLLAN Esq^{rs}.

Voted that the Selectmen prepare fair Copies of said Letter Sign 'em in the Name of the Town and forward them to the Agents as soon as may be.

The Committee appointed the 13th ins^t. to consider what Methods are best to be taken to prevent the spreading of Fires and for the more speedy extinguishing of 'em, also for securing of Goods Merchandize &c^a. in the time of Fire made the following Report viz^t.

That for the future the Care and Inspection of the Engines be left to the Firewards, and that when and so often as they shall be found to want repair they take effectual Care to see it done, according to their best discretion, and [462.] that the Accounts of Charges arising hereby be laid before the Selectmen for their Approbation.

That the Fire Hooks be immediately repair'd, and that there be two Hooks to each Engine and that white Rope be affixed to the Hooks — That there be fifteen fathom of white Rope always kept in each Engine House for the more easy pulling down of Houses — That there be two Axes provided for each Engine and affixed thereto. The Committee are further of Opinion that there be two Men added to each Company of Engine Men whose more immediate Buisness it shall be to take Care of the Ropes and Axes, and to do such duty therewith as the Fire-Wards shall direct, those two to be Excus'd from Town duty only. Voted that the same be Accepted.