

1775

January the 9:1775

**The particulars of a Leagel (Legal) Town meeting in Methuen the Ninth day  
of  
January next are as followeth (viz.)**

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| First | To Choose (chose) a Moderator for Said meeting  |
| 2dly  | To Choose (chose) one or more meet persons if the Town shall think proper to meet the Provincial Congress on the first of Febury (February) next ensuing at Cambridge |
| 3dly  | To see what the Town will act concerning collecting a donation for the poor of Boston   |
| 4thly | To act what the Town shall think proper concerning drafting out Minuet Men ( <b>Minutemen</b> )   |

Att (At) a Leagel (Legal) Town meeting in Methuen on January the 9<sup>th</sup> 1775

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| First               | The Town voted and Choose (chose) Mr Samuel Bodwell Moderator for Said meeting  |
| Boston              | Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted to give the Town of Boston by subscription  |
| 2dly                | At the above meeting Town voted to Choose (chose) a committee to receive the donations that may be brought in Said donations to be brought by the first of Febury (February) exact to Said committee  |
| 3dly<br>a committee | Richard Whittier<br>John Masten                   } was the committee<br>James How                   } Choose (chose)n to receive<br>John Pettengill                   } the donations that<br>James Mallon                   } might be brought in<br>John Vernum<br>James Jones |
| 4thly               | Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted that the Minuet men ( <b>Minutemen</b> ) drawn out or expected to train should have eight pence per day for their trouble to the last of March  |

John At the above meeting the Town voted and Choose (chose) Mr John Bodwell to  
Bodwell meet the  
Provincial Congress on the fourth of Febury (February) next at Cambridge

### **March 8, 1775**

**The particulars for calling a Leagel (Legal) Annuel Town meeting in  
Methuen on WenSaiday (sic: Wednesday) the eighth Day of March as  
followeth (viz.)**

- First To Choose (chose) a Moderator for Said meeting
- Secondly To Choose (chose) Town officers for the year ensuing as the law directs
- Thirdly To see what the Town will act concerning the Reverend Mr Christopher Sargents  
sallery (sic: salary) the year ensuing
- Fourthly To see what sum or sums of money the Town grants for repairing the highway  
and particulars or privet (sic: private) ways in Said Town the year ensuing
- 5thly To see what the Town will act respecting the school the year ensuing
- 6thly To see what the Town will act concerning the swine going at large the year  
ensuing
- 7thly To act what the Town shall think proper concerning paying their representatives
- 8thly To bring in and allow Town debts
- 9thly At the request of several of the Inhabitants of this Town, to see if the Town will  
except  
(sic: accept) of a way that was laid out and by the Selectmen some time in the  
month of Febury (February) in year 1774 beginning near house of Obediah Morse  
thence running southerly by the west end of the house of Daniel Bodwell the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
and so on through  
Bodwells (Bodwell's) and others to a way that by the house of William Whittier  
to Pelham
- 10thly To see if the Town will except (sic: accept) of an addition to the way laid out on  
the north side of the house of Capt John White on land of Mr Samuel Bodwell
- 11thly At the request of a number of the Inhabitants of this Town to see if the Town will  
relieve a number of these persons that have separated from the Reverend Mr  
Sargents meeting: from paying their ?(too faded) rate to the Reverend Mr Sargent

12thly To see what the Town will act concerning providing bayonets for the **Minutemen**  
Hear of fail not and make due Return of this Warrant with your doings thereon to  
one of  
us the Subscribers on or before the time of Said meeting

**Given under our hand and seal the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of Febury Anno Domini 1775 in  
the fifteenth year of his Majesty's reign**

Stephen Barker Esq. Selectmen  
James Ingalls                   } of  
Lu<sup>t</sup> John Sargent           Methuen

### **March 8, 1775**

**The above particulars were acted upon at a Leagel (Legal) Annuel Town  
meeting  
in Methuen on March the eighth 1775 are as followeth viz.:**

Firstly           The Town voted and Choose (chose) Mr James Ingalls Moderator for Said  
meeting

Secondly        Att (At) the above meeting Town voted and Choose (chose) Richard Whittier  
Town Clerk  
for the year ensuing and sworn

Thirdly         Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted and Choose (chose) Mr Jonathan  
Swan  
Constable for the east part of the Town

Constables      Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted and exected (sic: accepted) of Mr  
William Page to serve as Constable in the room (in the place of) of Said Swan and  
was sworn

                  Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted and Mr Moses Morse Constable for  
the west  
part of the Town and was sworn to his office

Selectmen       Att (At) the above Leagel (Legal) Annuel meeting the Town voted and Choose  
(chose) Richard Whittier, Lt Benjamin Hall and Mr Ebenezer Barker Selectmen  
for the year and sworn

                  At the above meeting the Town voted and Choose (chose) Asa Currier and  
James Mallon for Wardens

Tyding men Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted and Choose (chose) Benjamin Masten,  
Benjamin Stevens and William Ranolds Tyding men and sworn

Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted and Choose (chose)

|                          |   |   |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| Surveyors<br>of Highways | Jacob Messer<br>Nathaniel Parker<br>Joseph Griffen<br>Jacob Merrick<br>Benjamen Town<br>James Long<br>Henery Long<br>Stevens Morse<br>William Morse | Samuel Bodwell<br>John Pettingill<br>Abner Whittier<br>John Law |
|                          |   | } Surveyors<br>} of the<br>} Highways                           |

Surveyors of Lumber Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted and Choose (chose) Ebenezer Herrick, Joseph Pettengill and Benjamin Herrick Surveyor of Lumber/sworn

Sealer Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted and chose Lt John Sargent Sealer of  
of Weights Waits/  
sworn

Sealer of Leather At the above meeting the Town voted and Choose (chose) Robert Hastings Sealer of Leather/sworn

Field At a Leagel (Legal) Annuel Town meeting in Methuen on March 9<sup>th</sup> 1775 at the above  
Drivers meeting the Town voted and Choose (chose) Joseph Hastings and Nathaniel Pettengill Jr. field Drivers and sworn

Fence Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted and Choose (chose) John Harris and  
Viewers James Mallon Fence Viewers and sworn

Hog Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted and Choose (chose) John Mansur, William

Fish Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted and Choose (chose) Samuel Palmer

At (A) the above meeting the Town Voted and Choose (choose) Sam and John

Fish Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted and Choose (chose) Samuel Palmer and John

Courses Farnum to take that the fish courses clear so that the fish may pass and re pass/and sworn

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Mr Sargent         | Att (At) the above Leagel (Legal) Annuel Town meeting in Methuen March the 9 <sup>th</sup> 1775 the  |
| Sallery<br>49-14-0 | Town voted to raise forty nine pound and fourteen shillings for the Reverend Mr Christopher Sargent our present minister for his sallery (salary) the present year |
| Highways           | Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted to raise seventy pounds for to repair the Highways the present year  |
| Swine              | Voted that swine be at large the present year  |
| Congress           | Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted to pay the Representatives the allowed on the Provincial Congress  |

### **March 9, 1775**

**The above meeting adjourned from March the 9<sup>th</sup> 1775 to March the 22d of this  
Instant at one of the clock in the afternoon and then meet and proceed as followeth (viz.)**

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Committee            | Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted and excepted (accepted) of the committees   |
| Report               | report respecting the several wards of the school in this Town  |
| School               | Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted to lay out thirty pound to pay for schooling  |
| Money                | the present year  |
| 11thly               | The Eleventh articul (article) was voted in the negative respecting relieving Mr Chapmen people from paying rates to the Reverend Mr Sargent  |
| Bayonets             | Att (At) the above meeting by adjournment the Town voted that the bayonets should be brought unto Cap <sup>t</sup> John Davies and after the service is over Said Davies is to return Said bayonets unto the Selectmen of Said Town |
| Should be<br>Returnd | Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted that Capten (Captain) John Davies Lu <sup>t</sup> Nathaniel Herrick and Lu <sup>t</sup> Eliphelet Bodwell should look after Said bayonets   |
| A first              | Att (At) a Leagel (Legal) Annuel Town meeting on March the 8 <sup>th</sup> 1775 ( this part of the  |
| Adjournment          | record is totally faded and cannot be read) ----- by adjournment to the 22 <sup>nd</sup> Instant  |
| Baxters              | Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted to Jonathan Baxter for keep his father Lovejoy and mother four shilling per week  |

Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted to Abner Whittier for boards to fence the Burying Place in the west part of the Town and spikes 1-6-0

John Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted to John Harries four shilling per rod for to build a stone wall at the Burying Place in the west part of the Town

Second The above Annuel meeting was adjourned from the 22d of March to the fifth of Adjournment Apriel (April) following and then proceeded

Selectmen Att (At) the above meeting by adjournment the Town voted to indemnifie (indemnify)

Indemnified the Selectmen for not returning their Warrant to Harris Gray in the year 1774

A committee Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted that the same committee of safty (safety) of and correspondence should continue a committee for the same purpose Correspondence

Catarages Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted and Choose (chose) John Masten and Jonathan

(cartridges) Made up Barker a committee to make up the cartages (cartridges) for those persons that are not able to provide for themselves out of the Town stock and to return the same into the same into the Town stock again

Daniel Voted at a Leagel (Legal) Annuel Town meeting one 22d of March 1775 by adjournment

Bodwells that the road or way laid out in the year 1774 be excepted (accepted) if it be no (Bodwell's) charge to the Town, the Said way beginning at Obediah Morse through Morses Road (Morse's) land and Bodwells (Bodwell's) land and others till it comes to the rod that leads to Pelham

A Road by We the Subscribers Selectmen of Methuen laid out an addition to the Road on the North side of the dwelling house of Cap<sup>t</sup> John White beginning at the corner of the wall between the land of Mr John Bodwell & Samuel Bodwell then running one pole to a stake and stones then running westerly nine poles to a stake and stones then running eighteen poles near the corner of the fence between land of Cap<sup>t</sup> White and Samuel Bodwell

**Dated Methuen, Febury the 22 1775**

Stephen Barker      Selectmen  
James Ingalls      }      of  
John Sargent      Methuen

**Att (At) a Leagel (Legal) Annuel Town meeting in Methuen on adjourned**  
(text illegible as that corner of the page has totally faded) ---

We the Subscribers being appointed a committee to Selectmen --- the School – having met and deliberated considered the --- unanimously agree to recommend the following plan (viz.)

First      That the Town be divided into the following Wards

Ward 1<sup>st</sup>      from Dracut line between land of Widow Morriel and Daniel Whittier to the house between the house of John Farnum and Abner Merriel from the befour (before)

Ward 2<sup>nd</sup>      (before) mentioned line to the house of Francis Richardson to the house of James Mallon including Said Richardson and Melloon like ---  
Include Abner Whittier, School House to be near the house when

Ward 3<sup>rd</sup>      From the aforesaid Richardsons (Richardson's) to the House of James Sargent ---  
House of Jonathan Barker and including Said Sargent and ----  
Likewise the Road that leads Joseph Merriel as f----  
To Merriel School House near the house of William Morse ---

Ward 4<sup>th</sup>      From the aforesaid Sargents to the house of James Cotton there to ---  
Swans so on to the house of Moses Pingrey including Said ---  
And Pingrey likewise the Road that leadeth to Salam (Salem) as ---

Ward 5<sup>th</sup>      Included Mr Chapman & Joseph Moreses School house to be near the ---  
From the last mentioned bound, to Haverhill line including ----  
Herrick Kimball Carlton and Ichobod Parkers School House ---  
Where it now is

Ward 6<sup>th</sup>      To include all between the two last School Houses to stand between the between  
The house of Doc<sup>t</sup> Hazeltine and Timothy Emerson

Ward 7<sup>th</sup>      Which is the northwesterly part of the Town to include all that have not been mentioned School House by the house of Samuel Palmer

2ndly      That each provide themselves a sufficient School House near the place prefixed on pain of losing their part of the School

3dly      That the Town lay thirty pounds for the rest of the School year ---

4thly That each Ward shall have there (their) proportion of school according to what they ---

5thly That a good righting (writing) and reading school be provided the ensuing year –

6thly That the whole of the aforesaid sum be laid out for a school master or masters and that the Selectmen have the care of oversight and ordering the school

N:B It is to be understood that aney (any) person in Town shall have liberty to send to any Ward besides that to which he belongs anything in this plan to the conterary (contrary) notwithstanding

**The above Wards was voted to be recorded at Leagel (Legal) Annuel Town meeting  
by Adjournment from 22d of March 1775 to the 5<sup>th</sup> of Apriel (April)  
following**

|               |                |                 |             |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Benjamin Hall | Samuel Bodwell | John Sargent    |             |
| James Jones   | James Ordway   | John Pettengill | } Committee |
| John Farnum   | James Wilson   | John Huse       |             |

**April 4, 1775**

**We the Subscribers being appointed a committee by the Town of Methuen to give  
sum (some) instructions to a cartain (certain) committee of lofty Safty  
(safety) and Correspondence and Safty that was chosen by the Town in  
September last or may hearafter (hereafter) be choosen (chosen) as above  
that it is recommended that the above Committee do strictly observe confer  
on striectly conform to the Instructions hearafter (hereafter) mentioned**

First That you will be vigilant (vigilant) in this time of public distress that infractions violations be made on the good and wholsom (wholesome) Laws of this provance (province: i.e. Massachusetts) Whereby the morels (morals) of the people are indangerd (endangered) of being corrupted and in case you should be unsuccessful in your endevers (endeavors) in all propor (proper) ways then to publish their names that public may see and know them to be enemies to their contry (country) and the privileges of the same –

Secondly That you correspond with committees of other Towns if you see it needful as may be necessary upon all important ocations (occasions)

Thirdly and as a Committee of Inspection we recommend to you that you will not by (buy) or purches (purchase) any British manafactors (manufactures) or Super? in your families but such as are of absolute necessity and likewise that you recommend to others to do the same for we think that a refarmtion (reformation) of this will grately tend to lesson our private expence and the better to enable us to bare (bear) the publick charges and prevent those mischefts (mischiefs) may ensue thereupon –

Fourthly That you will suppress as much as posable (possible) those persons if any such there be who travel pedlers (peddlers) to introduce British Goods and impose on the Inconsedrate (Inconsiderate) which may impower us: and whereas it is Said that our enemies are sending out their spies in order to get information of our schemes (schemes) and plans which are contrived for our defence so as they may frastrate (frustrate) them it is recommended that you take care that they received that resentment due to there (their) deeds –

Fifthly if any trader or other person within this Town shall take the advantage of the present distressed circomstances (circumstances) in Amarica (America) and by an avarition thurst (thirst) after gain shall rise the price of any comodity (commodity) whatsoever beyond their usual reasonable price or shall use their influence by words or actions to desion (?) at the mesuers (measures) adu?ed to by the Grand Continental Congress when made to appear to you that he or they persist in the same you are to publish their names that they may be publickly known and treated as enemies to their Contrey (Country)

**Methuen April ye 4<sup>th</sup> 1775**

James Ingalls  
Jonathan Swan } Committee  
John Huse

### **October 10, 1775**

**The perticulars of a Leagel (Legal) Town meeting in Methuen October the 10<sup>th</sup> 1775 are as followeth (viz.)**

First To Choose (chose) a Moderator for Said meeting

Secondly To act what the Town will do respecting providing the Minutemen blankets as the Congress has recommended

Thirdly To see what the Town will act respecting the Constable who are gone into the service and how the moneys to be -- --

To see what the Town will act on – of the above particulars

The voted and Choose (chose) Mr James Ingalls Moderator

--- voted and the above meeting that the Selectmen should provide ten guns for those persons who are not able to pren--- for them – the Town voted that

Att (At) the above meeting the Town should provide the Minutemen with blankets

### **October 18, 1775**

**The particulars of a Leagel (Legal) Town meeting in Methuen on WenSaiday (Wednesday) eighteenth day of October 1775 are as follows**

- First To Choose (chose) a Moderator for Said meeting
- Secondly To bring in an allow Town debts
- Thirdly To see what money the Town will raise to defray Town charges the present year
- Fourthly To Choose (chose) a committee to reckon with the present Town Treasurer, Warned by Moses Morse on e of the Constables of Said Town

### **The Town met and acted on the above particulars**

- First The Town voted and Choose (chose) Cap<sup>t</sup> William Russ Moderator for Said meeting
- Secondly The Town voted and allow Abner Whittier for plank lumber 1-1-5
- Thirdly Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted to raise one hundred pound for the defray
- 100 – pounds Town charges the present year

Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted and Choose (chose) Cap<sup>t</sup> William (no surname given) Mr James Mallon and Mr Ebenezer Barker a committee to reckon with the present Treasurer and to make report at the Adjournment

## **1776**

### **March 13, 1776**

**The particulars for calling a Leagel (Legal) [corner of pages faded and ineligible] ---**

On WenSaiday (Wednesday) the thirteenth day of March 1776 -----

.....  
Warrant was granted Richard Whittier Ebenezer -----

Selectmen of Methuen and warned by Mr William --- .....  
of Said Town of Methuen are as followeth (viz.) -----

- First To Choose (chose) a Moderator for Said meeting
- Secondly To Choose (chose) Town officers for the year ensuing as the law directs
- Thirdly To see what the Town will act concerning the Reverend Mr Christopher Sargents Sallery (salary) the year ensuing
- Fourthly To see what sum or sums of money the Town will grant for repairing the highways and  
privet way in Said Town the year ensuing
- Fifthly To see what the Town will act respecting the school or schools the present year
- Sixthly To see what the Town will act concerning swine going at large the year ensuing
- Seventhly To allow any Town debts that may be brought into the meeting
- Eighthly To see if the Town will discontinue the vote that was past last Annuel Town meeting respecting Mr John Harries fencing the Burying Place in the west part of the Town
- Ninthly To see what the Town will act respecting the delinquents of the highways
- Tenthly To see if the Town will bring their votes for a Register of Deeds for this county
- Eleventhly To see if the Town will Choose (chose) a number of Judicis (judicious) men to serve  
as a committee of correspondence Inspection and safty (safety) for the present year  
  
Hereof fail not and make due return to one of us the Subscribers at or before the time of  
Said meeting

Given under our hands and seals 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February in the 16 year of his Majesties Reign

**March 13<sup>th</sup> 1776**

**The above particulars were acted upon on March the 13<sup>th</sup> 1776 and are as followeth (viz.)**

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| Moderator  | The Town voted and Choose (chose) Mr James Ingalls Moderator for Said meeting  |
| First      |  |
| Town Clerk | At the above meeting the Town voted and Choose (chose) Mr Richard Whittier Town Clerk for the ensuing year and sworn   |
| Selectmen  | Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted and Choose (chose) Lu <sup>t</sup> John Sargent Lu <sup>t</sup> Stephen Webster Jr and Mr Ebenezer Barker Selectmen for the year ensuing and sworn |
| Constable  | Att (At) the above Annuel meeting the Town voted and Choose (chose) Mr Timothy Eaton, Constable for the east part of the Town and/sworn  |

**[The top left of page 42 in the original record is faded and ineligible.]**

--- --- --- to the 15<sup>th</sup> day of November Instant (1775) --- --- ---  
in the afternoon --- --- and to Fryday (Friday) twenty third of this --- --- ---  
in the afternoon: and met At the above meeting the Town voted to Mr John Bodwell for his Att (At)endance on the Congress nine pounds five shilling of lawfull money – 9-5-0

Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted to Mr James Ingalls for his Att (At)endance on the Congress eighteen pounds and ten shillings – 18-10-0

We the Subscribers a committee to reckon with Mr Richard Whittier Treasurer have

--- --- and finds there is in the hand of the Treasurer money 232-78-4 lawfull  
**Methuen November 4<sup>th</sup> 1775**

N:B the order that was given baring even --- with the reckoning was then reckoned: ---

James Russ

James Russ

James Mallon

James Mallon

Ebenezer Barker

Ebenezer Barker

Voted that this reckoning should be recorded

**March Meeting 1776 [Page 43 in the original is very faded and difficult to read.]**

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Constable | Att (At) a Leagel (Legal) Annuel Town meeting the Town meeting the Town voted and Choose (chose) Mr John Harries Constable for the west part of the Town of Methuen and sworn to his office |
|-----------|---|



|   |  |
|---|--|
|   | Joseph Griffen and Benamen Town Hog Reeves – and sworn   |
|   | Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted and Choose (chose) Francis Richardson and Samuel Palmer to take care of the Fish / Richardson was sworn  |
| Mr Sargent                                    | Att a Leagel (Legal) Annuel Town meeting in Methuen on <b>March the 13<sup>th</sup>:1775</b> the Town  |
| Sallery 57-8-1                                | voted to raise fifty seven pound and eight pence lawfull money for the Reverend Mr Christopher Sargent our present Minister for the sallery (salary) the present year –  |
| Highways                                      | Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted to raise forty pounds for to repair the highways the present year  |
| Schools<br>Wards                              | Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted that the Wards respecting the schools should stand as they did the last year except the ? Ward voted that they may devide (divide) if they please                      |
| Mallon Chain                                  | Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted that Mr James Mallon chain which was sent to Newbrey port (Newburyport) should be paid for at six shillings per pound if it is not returned to the owner               |
| Respecting<br>the Highways                    | Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted that the Surveyors of the Highways should return their lists to the Selectmen and the Selectmen to add to the Town rate according to a Town vote made in the year 1769 |
| <b>Apriel (April) the 22<sup>d</sup> 1776</b> |  |
|   | <b>Att (At) the meeting of the Inhabants (Inhabitants) of the Town of Methuen on<br/>Apriel (April) the 22<sup>d</sup> 1776</b> the Town voted to send to the convention held at Ipswich                         |
| Mr Swan<br>at Ipswich                         | Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted and Choose (chose) Mr. Jonathan Swan to meet the Convention at Ipswitch (sic: Ipswich) on Thirsday (Thursday) – at Mr Treadwell's Tavern                               |
|   | <b>The particulars for calling a Leagel (Legal) Town meeting in Methuen are as followeth (viz.)</b> first to Choose (chose) a Moderator for Said meeting   |
| Secondly                                      | To see if the Inhabants (Inhabitants) in Said meeting consider and etermen (determine) whether they will give their consent that the House of Representatives  |

of this State of Massachusetts) Bay in New England together with the Conseil (Council)  
if they consent in one Body with the House and by equel (equal) voice should Consent agree on and enact such a Constitution and form of Government for this State as the Said House of Representatives and Counsel as aforesaid on the fullest most mAtt (At)er deliberation shall judge will most conduct to the Safty (Safety) Peace and Happiness of this State in all after successions and Generations

**In Council July ye 17<sup>th</sup> 1776,**

**Ordered that the Declaration of Independence be printed and a copy sent to the Ministers of each Parish of every Denomination within this State and that they generally be required to read the same to their Respective Congregations as soon as Divine Service is ended in the afternoon of the first Lord Day after they shall have received it and after such publication hereof to deliver the Said Declaration to the Clerks of their several Towns or Districks who are hereby required to record the same in their Respective Town or Districts Books there to remain a Perpetual Memorial thereof. In the name and by order of the Counsel –**

**A true copy attest John Avery Dystrict Secry  
R. Derby Jn<sup>r</sup> President**

**In Congress July 4, 1776 –  
A Declaration by the Representatives of the United States of America  
in General Congress assembled**

**When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.**

**We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, - that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such Principles and organizing its Powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence,**

indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Briton [Great Britain] is a History of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World.

**He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the Publick Good.**

**He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing Importance, unless suspended in their operation until his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to Att (At)end to them.**

**He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large Districts of People, unless those People would relinquish the rites of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to Tyrants only.**

**He has called together Legislative Bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the Depository of their Publick Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into Compliance with his measures.**

**He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his Envasions on the Rights of the People.**

**He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected, whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.**

**He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations**

**of Lands.**

**He has obstructed the Administration of Justice by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers.**

**He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.**

**He has erected a multitude of New Officers, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our People, and eat out their substance.**

**He has kept among us, in Times of Peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our Legislatures.**

**He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Powers.**

**He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution, and unacknowledged by our Laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of Pretended Legislation:**

**For quartering large Bodies of armed troops among us For protecting them, by a mock Trial from punishment for any Murder which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States; For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:**

**For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent: For depriving us in many cases, of the benefit of Trial by Jury:**

**For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences:**

**For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies: For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments.**

**For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with Power to legislate for us in all Cases Whatsoever. He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his protection and waging war against us. He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts burnt our Towns, and destroyed the lives of our People,**

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of Death, Desolation, and Tyranny, already begun with Circumstances of Cruelty & Perfidy fearcely paralleled in the most barbarous Ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a Civilized Nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country; to become the Executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has executed domestic Insurrections among us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our Frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished Destruction of all Ages, Sexes and Conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury? - A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every Act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a Free People!

Nor have We been wanting in Att (At)ention to our British Brethren, We have warned them from time to time of Att (At)empts by their Legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the Circumstances of our Emigration and Settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the tithes of our Common Kindred to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our Connections and Correspondence. They too have been Deaf to the Voice of Justice and of Consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the Necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of Mankind. Enemies in War; in peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress Assembled Appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our Intentions, do, in the Name and by the Authority of the Good People of these Colonies, Solemnly Publish and Declare, that these United Colonies are,

**and of Right ought to be, Free and Independent States, that they are  
absolved**

**from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all Political Connection  
between them and the State of Great Britain is and ought to be totally  
dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to  
levy war, conclude Peace,  
contract Alliances, Establish Commerce, and do all other Acts and things  
which Independent States may of right do. And for the Support of this  
Declaration, with  
a firm reliance on the Protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to  
each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our Sacred Honor.**

**Signed by order and in behalf of the Congress**

**John Hancock President  
Attest, Charles Thomson Secretary**

**A true copy Richard Whittier Town**

**Clerk**

**[Transcriber's Note: The first copies of the Declaration of Independence sent to all of the towns and villages of the colonies/provinces, contained only the signatures of John Hancock and Charles Thomson. It was later that the creators of the Declaration of Independence**

**would all sign. In so doing, every member of the Continental Congress who signed, risked his livelihood as well as his life. Some suffered great losses for having embarked  
on this course of action that would establish America as a free country.]**

**October 2, 1776**

**At a meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town Methuen on October 2, 1776, the Town  
voted**

**and chose Capt. John Bodwell Moderator for Said meeting.**

**Put to vote whether it be the mind of the Town that the present House of Representatives with Counsel should agree on such confusion for this state they think for the good of the State and  
publish the same for this approbation of the people before it is ratified.**

**November ye 19: 1776**

**The particulars for calling a legal Town meeting in Methuen on November 19, 1776 are  
as followeth (viz.)**

First to Choose (chose) a Moderator for Said meeting

Secondly To bring in and allow Town debts

Thirdly To see what money the Town will raise to defray Town charges the year ensuing

Fourthly To see what the Town will act concerning the school

**Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted and chose**

Moderator Leu<sup>t</sup> John Huse Moderator for Said meeting

Voted to allow Capt. Stephen Barker as an addition to a former vote respecting fencing the Burying Place 0-12-0

Voted Mr Jonathan Swan for waiting on the convention at Ipswich twelve shillings 0-12-0

Voted at a Leagel (Legal) Town meeting in Methuen to raise one hundred pounds to defray Town charges for the present year 100-0-0

Voted that thirty pounds should be appropated (appropriated) for the use of the school out of Said hundred

Voted to Samuel Hilderick for doctoring Mr. Timothy Lovejoys family 0-6-0

## 1777

### March Ye 19th 1777

**The perticulars of a Legal Annuel Town meeting in Methuen on Ye 19<sup>th</sup> 1777 are as followeth (viz.)**

First To Choose (chose) a Moderator for Said meeting

Secondly To Choose (chose) Town Officers as the law directs

Thirdly To see what the Town will act concerning the Reverend Mr Christopher Sargents sallery the year ensuing

Fourthly To see what the Town will act concerning swine going at large the year ensuing

Fifthly To see if the Town will Choose (chose) some persons to clear the fish courses the year ensuing

Sixthly To see what sum or sums of money the Town will raise to repair the high ways  
the  
year ensuing

Seventhly To see what the Town will act concerning the school

Eighthly To Choose (chose) a committee of Correspondence Inspection and Safty (safety)

Ninthly To see if the Town will allow of such highways or privet (private) ways as is or  
may be  
laid out by the Selectmen of Said Town before Said meeting

### **March 19, 1777**

**The above particulars were acted upon March 19, 1777 at a Legal Annuel  
Town meeting in Methuen.** Said Warrant was granted by Lu<sup>t</sup> John Sargent,  
Stephen Webster Junior and Ebenezer Barker Selectmen of Methuen and warned  
by John Harries Constable  
of the same Town: and proceed as followeth (viz.)

First Voted and Choose (chose) Capt. John Bodwell Moderator for the Said meeting

Voted and Choose (chose) Richard Whittier Town Clerk / and / sworn

Secondly Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted and Choose (chose) Stephen Barker  
Esq. Mr Jonathan Swan and Lu<sup>t</sup> Stephen Webster Junior Selectmen / and sworn

I. Perkens Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted and Choose (chose) Ichabod Perkens  
Constable for Constable the East part of the Town / and sworn

### **On adjournment from the 19<sup>th</sup> of March 1777 to the 27<sup>th</sup> of March Instant**

J. Pettengill The Town voted and chose Mr. John Pettengill as Constable for the West part of  
Constable Town / and sworn

A Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted and Choose (chose) Mr Daniel  
Bodwell Junior

Committee Deacon Samuel Cole Mr Josiah Osgood (?), Henry Bodwell and Mr Ebenezer  
of Safty Carlton a committee of Safety and Correspondence

Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted and Choose (chose) Town voted and  
chose Mr William Page and Francis Richardson Wardens – Page sworn

Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted and Mr Elijah Sargent Mr Caleb Hall  
and Mr William Morse Tyding men / and sworn

|                                     |  |   |   |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Surveyors<br>of Highways            | William Whittier Junior<br>Richard Currier Junior<br>Bodwell Ladd<br>Nehemiah Barker   | John Masten<br>Timothy How<br>Cap <sup>t</sup> John Davies<br>Moses Sargent | Farnum Hall<br>Benjamin Town<br>Daniel Bodwell 3 <sup>d</sup> |
| Fish Courses                        | Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted that no fish should be taken below the Grist Mill Dam on penalty of paying ten shillings for the first o fence (offense)   |   |   |
|                                     | Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted and Choose (chose) Asa Messer John Masten<br>and Benjamin Herrick / Surveyors of Lumber / and sworn  |   |   |
| Cutting<br>Marsh                    | Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted and Choose (chose) Cutting Marsh<br>and<br>Peter Harris to see that the fish course and Denson's Brook is kept clear so that<br>the Alewives   |   |   |
| Peter<br>Harries<br>Choose (chose)n | may pass and repass up and down the Said brook.<br>Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted that swine should go at large the year<br>ensuing   |   |   |
| Mr Sargents                         | Att (At) the above Leagel (Legal) Annuel Town meeting in Methuen on March<br>the 19 <sup>th</sup><br>1777 the Town voted to raise sixty four pounds, seven shillings and four pence<br>lawfull money for the Reverend Mr Christopher Sargent our present minister for<br>his sallery<br>(sallery) for the present year – |   |   |
| Highways                            | Att (At) the above meeting the Town voted to raise 30 pounds for repairing the<br>high<br>ways the year ensuing  |   |   |

### June 23, 1777

**The particulars for a Leagel (Legal) Town meeting in Methuen on June 23, 1777 are as followeth (viz.)**

First to Choose (chose) a Moderator for Said meeting

Secondly To Choose (chose) some meet person for to be a requester of Deeds in answer to a petition of  
a number of the Inhabants (Inhabitants) of this Town

Thirdly To see if the Town will be pleased to order a proper place or seats in the meeting house where a number of singers may sit together for the better carrying on that part Divine Worship or order any thing further that may be necessary to that end

Voted to proceed on the above articles

First Voted and Choose (chose) Cap<sup>t</sup> John Bodwell as Moderator for Said meeting

Secondly Votes were brought in for Requester of Deeds

Thirdly At the above meeting the Town voted a place in the front gallery that two feet on the men's side and five feet on the women's side and so back to the front pew and also the hind seat to pass and re-pass to and from Said seat or place for singing without any cost or charge to the Town

### **November/December Meeting 1777**

**The perticulars of a Leagel (Legal) Annuel Town meeting on November 24<sup>th</sup> 1777 are as followeth viz.**

First To Choose (chose) a Moderator & Stephen Barker, Esq. was chosen

Secondly To Choose (chose) a Town clerk & Town Treasurer in the room (in the place of) of Mr. Richard Whittier who is confined by sickness  
The Town then proceeded and Choose (chose) Jonathan Swan for the two above Said offices

Thirdly Voted to allow Town Debts accordingly above an order to be given to Jonathan Swan for to draw on the Town Treasurer for money to pay for 10 guns and a quantity of flints lately purchased by the Selectmen.  
  
Voted that the guns & flints above mentioned be turned into the Town stock  
  
Voted to Enim Henry Bodwell 30 pounds of lawful money for timber to make string pieces for Spicket Bridge

Fourthly To see what sum of money the Town shall raise to defray Town charges the year ensuing

Fifthly To see if the Town shall think proper to Choose (chose) a committee to reckon with Richard Whittier late Town Treasurer and make report  
  
Voted and Choose (chose) of Colonel Thomas Poor Mr Ebenezer Barker and Francis Swan Esq. for Said committee

**The above meeting was adjourned to Tuesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of December next to receive the report of the committee above mentioned and likewise the fourth article was omitted to the adjournment**

**December 2<sup>d</sup> 1777 met and adjourned to TueSaiday (Tuesday) the 9<sup>th</sup> day of December**

**TueSaiday (Tuesday) December 9<sup>th</sup> 1777** the Town voted to have the report of the Committee entered in the Town book viz.

**November 27<sup>th</sup> 1777** reckoned with Mr. Richard Whittier late Treasurer for the Town of Methuen and we find over and above all the orders that hath been given that there remains  
in his hands due to the Town 82-11-3

Thomas Poor  
Ebenezer Barker      } Committee  
Francis Swan

Then the Town proceeded to act on the fourth article of the above meeting and voted to raise

2 hundred pounds to defray Town charges the year ensuing then Said meeting was devolved

**The particulars for a legal Town meeting in Methuen on December 23<sup>d</sup> 1777**

At the request of a number of the Inhabitants of the Town of Methuen seting (setting) forth the unreasonableness of their being taxed to the support of the Rev., Mr. Sargent when they do not

hear him to see if the Town would vote to release them from the above tax

Mr. James Ingalls Moderator and the Town voted not to release them but voted in the negative so Said meeting as dissolved

## **1778**

### **February 12, 1778**

**The particulars of a legal Town meeting on ThirSaiday (Thursday) February the 12<sup>th</sup>**

**1778 are as followeth viz.**

First      To Choose (chose) a Moderator for Said meeting and Col. Thomas Poor was chosen to Said office

Thirdly    The Town voted on the third article to see what measures the Town would take with these families that want some provision agreeable to a resolve of the General Court where the men are

in the Continental Service The Town then voted that the selectmen supply Said families with the necessities of life on the Town cost

Secondly The second article was to see what instructions the Town shall see proper to give their Representatives relative to a resolve of the Honourables (Honorable) the Continental Congress for all the United States of America to joyning in a perpetual union with one another agreeable to the articles lately published by Said Congress it was moved to Choose (choose) a committee to consider of the resolve above mentioned and the Town Choose (choose) Major Bodwell Capt James Jones

Col. Thomas Poor Leut John Huse and Mr. Enoch Merrill and then adjourned to ThirSaiday (Thursday) the 19<sup>th</sup> day of February Instant at one of the clock in the afternoon

**The Town met on the adjournment above** and the Question was put to vote whether the Town would receive and accept of all the articles of the Confederation and Perpetual Union of the United States of America as expressed by Congress and voted in the affirmative

Fourthly The fourth article was to see what the Town would vote respecting the copy (copy) of a petition sent to the Town from the General Court of a considerable number of Inhabitants of Methuen Att (At)ending public worship at the Reverend Mr Chapman's Meeting House who have been taxed for the support of the Reverend Mr Sargent to shew (show) the reasons if any they have why the prayer of the petitioners should not be granted. The question was put and the Town voted not to show any cause why the petition should be granted and desolved (dissolved) Said meeting

## **March 11, 1778**

**The particulars of a legal annual Town meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup> 1778 are as followeth**

First To Choose (choose) a Moderator for Said meeting

Secondly To Choose (choose) Town Officers as the Law Directs

Thirdly To act what the Town shall think proper concerning the Reverend Mr Sargent's salary the year ensuing

Fourthly To see what the Town shall think proper concerning school or schools the year ensuing

Fifthly To consider what sum or sums of money may be necessary to raise to repair the high ways & private ways the year ensuing or act anything further that the Town shall think proper respecting Said ways

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| Sixthly  | To see if the Town will give liberty for swine to go at large the year ensuing  |
| Seventh  | To see if the Town will accept off and establish a particular way that was laid out by the Selectmen from the house of Mr Obadiah Morse through the land of sundry persons to Pelham Road so called   |
| Eighthly | At the request of a number of persons in the West part of the Town to see if the Town will vote that the Great and General Court shall if in their wisdom see fit set off one third part of<br>this Town being the westerly part to join with the East of the Town of Dracut to make a<br>Town<br>or District |
| Ninthly  | At the request & desire of Mr Joseph Jennings to see if the Town will make him some consideration on account of his son Daniel's misfortune in the Continental Service and the great cost he has been at in bringing him home   |

Hear of fail not and make Return of this Warrant with your doings there on to us the  
Subscribers at or before the Said time of meeting dated at Methuen  
Feb<sup>ry</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> 1778

Jonathan Swan      Selectmen  
Stephen Barker      }      of  
Stephen Webster Junr.      Methuen

The above particulars were acted on **March 11<sup>th</sup> 1778.**

## Mr. James Ingalls as **Moderator**

Jonathan Swan was chosen as **Town Clerk** and sworn  
Mr. Cutting Marsh, Major Nathaniel Heseltine & John Sargent Junior were  
Choose (chosen) **Selectmen** and sworn

Elijah Sargent was **chosen Constable for the East part of Town** who hired William Stevens and the Town excepted (accepted) of him who was sworn to the above office

Leut John Sargent was chosen as **Constable for the West part of Said Town**

Col Thomas Poor, Nehemiah Barker, Thomas Herrick, Enoch Merrill and Joseph Griffin  
were chosen a committee **of Saftey (safety) and Inspection**

Francis Swan & Nathaniel Pettengill Choose (chose) **Wardens**

Jonathan Swan Choose (chose)n **Treasurer** for Said Town

John Chickering, Daniel Bodwell and Samuel Cross were Choose (chose)n  
**Tything Men**

**Surveyors of High Ways and Sworn**

|              |                 |              |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| William Page | James Frye      | Job Pingrey  |
| David Morse  | Kimball Carlton | Samuel Clark |

|              |                 |               |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------|
| John Osgood  | Joseph Morse    | Thomas Dow    |
| Abel Merrill | Joseph Jennings | William Cross |

Nathaniel Pettengill and Joseph How      **Field Drivers**

William Whittier & Joseph Griffin      **Fence Viewers**

|                      |                            |            |
|----------------------|----------------------------|------------|
| Bodwell Ladd         | Samuel Emerson             | Simeon Dow |
| Moses Sargent        | & John Palmer              |            |
| were Choose (chosen) | <b>Hog Reefs</b> and sworn |            |

Benjamin Herrick      Asa Messer      John Masten  
were chosen **Surveyors of Lumber**

Thomas Herrick      Sealer of Leather

**Leut John Sargent Sealer of Waights (Weights) & Measures**

Zebadiah Barker Junior and Joseph Morrill were Choose (chosen) to take care that  
the

**Fish Course** in Deneson's Brook so called

Voted that no person catch Ealewives (Alewives) in the Brook above mentioned  
below

Capt David Whittiers Corn Mill on penalty of ten shillings fine

Third article      Voted to raise one hundred & fifty pounds for the Reverend Mr Sargent as his  
sallery for  
the year ensuing

Fourth article      Voted one hundred pounds for a school or schools for the year ensuing  
Each ward to have their part of the above sum and each ward may have liberty to  
send  
their children to any ward where they think proper

Fifth article      To see what sum of money would be proper to repair the highways  
Voted to raise one hundred & twenty pounds and to be paid in labour in manner

following viz. men's labor at 8/ per day a yoke of oxen at 5/11 a day a cart at 3/ per day

for all that shall be performed by the first day of September next and all labor performed after that time three quarters so much and the Surveyors are to return their lists to the Selectmen on or before the last day of October next and all persons who are named in Said lists who are then delinquent in working out their proportion of Said rate the Selectmen are required to add the same to the Town rate with a Warrant requiring the Constables to collect the same and pay it to the Treasurer of Said Town

Sixth article      The Town voted that swine go at large the year ensuing they be sufficiently yoked and ringed as the law directs

Seventh article      The Town voted to except (accept) and establish a particular privet way laid out by the Selectmen beginning at a black oak tree near the house of Obadiah Morse some land of  
Said Morse soon land of John Wilson to a stake and stones soon to land of Daniel Bodwell soon to Parker Bodwell 3<sup>d</sup> soon to Parker Bodwell land and land of Thomas Dow to land  
of William Whittier so on the Westerly line of Said Whittiers land to Pelham Road so Said Road is on the Easterly side of the bounds above mentioned two rods wide

Eighth article      was to see if the Town would vote that the General Court should set off one third part of  
Said Town being the westerly part next to the Town of Dracut to make a Town or District The Town voted in the negative.

Ninth article      With respect to Joseph Jennings, the Town voted to defer to the adjournment which was to Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> 1778

The meet on the adjournment above mentioned and the article above referred was voted in the negative and the meeting was dissolved

## April 2, 1778

**At a leagal (legal) Town meeting on April 2<sup>d</sup> 1778** warned by Cutting Marsh and John Sargent Selectmen of Methuen

Article 1      Capt. John Bodwell was Choose (chose)n as Moderator for Said meeting

Article 2      was to see if the Town will consider the proposal which the Reverend Mr Sargent made to the Town at the annual meeting concerning employing another minister and thereon what

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
|                         | the Town shall think proper and the Town voted not to act on the above article   |
| Article 3 <sup>d</sup>  | Respecting clothes for the Continental Soldier was omitted   |
| Article 4 <sup>th</sup> | To see what the Town will do with those persons who refuse to take our paper currency and passed a resolve to treat them as enemies to their country and voted to publish the same in the Boston Newspaper |
| Article                 | To see if the Town will give liberty for the inoculation for the small pox in some convenient place and Town and voted in the negative   |

### **April 8, 1778**

**At a legal Town meeting on April 8 1778** at the request of the Town of Newburyport to see the Town of Methuen will vote to send a man to attend at a County Convention appointed to set at Ipswich to consult on the new Constitution drawn up by a Convention of the General Court  
 The Town chose Mr. John Huse to attend that Service at the time and place agreeable to the above request

### **May 11, 1778**

**At a legal Town meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup> 1778** Major Samuel Bodwell was chosen as Moderator for Said meeting. The Town then voted the office of the milite (military) Draw on the Treasurer of the Town of Methuen for the sum of eight hundred dollars to hire soldiers for the Continental Army

### **May 18, 1878**

**At a legal Town meeting, May 18 1778** Mr. William Page was chosen as Moderator for Said meeting

It was voted to Choose (chose) a committee of 5 men to take care of those persons that have lately inoculated with the small pox and prosecute them and take effectual care that the distemper spread no further

Voted that Said committee together with the Selectmen do what they shall think proper concerning moving those inoculated persons and the above committee chose Lieutenant Stephen Webster Lieutenant William Page Mr Ebenezer Carlton Mr James Frye and Doctor Samuel Heseltine to act what they shall think proper thereon

## **June 1, 1778**

**Att (At) a legal Town meeting on June 1<sup>st</sup> 1778** warned by Mr Cutting Marsh & John Sargent Junior

First When met they chose Mr James Sargent as **Moderator** for Said meeting

2<sup>d</sup> article To see if the Town will Choose (chose) a committee to treat with the Reverend Mr Sargent on what terms he will lay down preaching in the place or to act there on as the Town shall see proper

3<sup>d</sup> article To see if the Town will order the Treasurer to give security in behalf of the Town on the interest for thirty pounds to each man that then had engaged in the Continental service for 9 months

The Town voted in the affirmative

The Town chose Lieutenant Benjamin Hall, Deacon James How, Lieutenant John Huse, Mr. James Ingalls and Capt. Stephen Webster for the committee agreeable to the second article and that they make return of the next Town meeting

4<sup>th</sup> article To see if the Town will vote that the Continental Soldiers that have families are provided for by the Selectmen or a committee for that purpose agreeable to a resolve of the General Court the Town voted in the affirmative

**At a legal Town meeting June 1<sup>st</sup> 1778** Lt. William Page was chosen Moderator for Said meeting

The article under consideration is to see if the Town will accept of and approve of the Constitution or form of Government sent from the General Court after debating the Said Article Poll eighty against it none there present for it

## **November 2, 1778**

**At a legal Town meeting in Methuen on November the 2 1778** they chose Major Samuel Bodwell as Moderator for the Said meeting

Secondly To bring in and allow Town debts and voted to Jonathan Swan one pound seven shillings for a straw bed and a coverlet which was lost when Jonathan Baxter was sick with the small pox 1-7-0

Voted to Abel Morrill one pound, five shillings for plank for a bridge 1-5-0

Thirdly To see what sum of money the Town will raise to defray Town charges for the year 1778

Voted to raise one thousand pounds for the purpose above mentioned

Fourthly To see what method the Town will take to make 35 rods of stone wall which the Town engaged to make in consequence of a road the Town laid through William Whittier land

The Town voted fifteen shillings a rod for Said wall to William Whittier when he hath accomplished Said 35 rods of wall that vote above mentioned Said Whittier excepted (sic:accepted)

Fifthly At the request of sundry Inhabitants of Methuen

To see if the Town will set off one third part of Said Town being the westerly part joyning to

Dracutt to make a Township the Inhabitants may be better accommodated for attending publick worship

After debating Said mAtt (At)er the Town voted in the negative that is not to set off Said third part as above

The Warrant above mentioned was given by Cutter Marsh Nathaniel Heseltine John Sargent

for October 22<sup>d</sup> 1778 Selectmen and warned by John Sargent Constable of Methuen

**Essex** To Mr. William Stevens, one of the Constables of the Town of Methuen

**Greeting** you are required in the name of state and people of the Massachusetts Bay to warn all

the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of Said Town that are qualified by law to vote in Town affairs to meet at the old meeting house in Said Town on Wednesday the tenth day of March next at ten of

the clock in the forenoon then and there to act on the following Particulars (sic:particulars) viz.

First To Choose (chose) a Moderator for Said meeting

Secondly To Choose (chose) Town officers as the Law directs

Thirdly To see how much money the Town will pay for schooling the year ensuing

Fourthly To see what money the Town will raise to prepare the highways the year ensuing

Fifthly To see what money the Town will raise for the support of the Reverend Christopher Sargent  
the year ensuing

Sixthly To see if the Town will pay the committee that was chosen by the Town last year to prosecute  
those persons that inoculated for small pox

Seventhly To see if the swine shall go at large the year ensuing

Eighthly To see if the Town will allow of a road laid out by the Selectmen two rods wide  
beginning at the road the west end of Carltons(Carlton's) hill running through land of  
Capt. John Bodwell &  
Capt. Henery Bodwell and land of John Bodwell to the road that leads to Mr John  
Chickings (Chickering's)

Hereof fail not and make Return of this Warrant and your doings to one of us the  
Subscribers at or before the time of Said meeting

Given under our hands and seal this **twenty third day of February 1779**

Cutting Marsh      } Selectmen  
Nathaniel Heseltine    } of  
John Sargent Jr      } Methuen

In pursuance of the within Warrant I have warned all the Freeholders and other  
Inhabitants to meet at the Time and place within mentioned

William Stevens, Constable of Methuen

**1779**

**March 10, 1779 – Annual Meeting**

**At a legal annual Town meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup> 1779 the particulars are as followeth**

1<sup>st</sup>

Mr. James Ingalls as **Moderator**

2d

Jonathan Swan as **Town Clerk & Sworn**

John Huse, Cutting Marsh and Jacob Messer Choose (chose) **Selectmen & sworn**

**Constables**

East End Kimball Carlton  
West End John Barker

**Committee of Inspection and Safety**

Capt. John Davis                    Caleb Hall                    John Chickring

**Wardens**

Col. Thomas Poor                    Daniel Hibberd

**Surveyors of Highways**

|                    |                 |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Nathaniel Messer   | Samuel Williams | James Silver    |
| Joshua Emerson Jr. | Elijah Perkins  | John Palmer     |
| Bodwell Ladd       | Caleb Swan      | Parker Bodwell  |
| Samuel Richardson  | Thomas Noyce    | John Bodwell Jr |

**Tything Men**

James Ordway                    Stephen Webster                    Joseph Merrel

**Field Drivers**

Obadiah Morse                    Joseph How

**Fence Viewers**

William Whittier Jr.                    Joseph Griffen

**Hogg Reefs**

|                |                 |            |
|----------------|-----------------|------------|
| Henry Benson   | Robert Hastings | Simeon Dow |
| Moses Sargeant |                 |            |

**Surveyors of Lumber**

John Parker

James Wilson

John Masten Jr

### **Sealer of Weights & Measures**

Lieutenant John Sargeant

To take care of the **fish course** on Dennison's Brook - Nathaniel Ladd

Thirdly      Voted to raise 200 two hundred pounds for schools for the year ensuing 200-0-0

Fourthly     Voted to raise five hundred pounds to repair the high ways to be paid in labor Viz.  
Mens (men's) labour at 20 per day and oxen at 10 per day a cart at 5/6 a day. For all labor  
performed before the 1<sup>st</sup> of September next and 3 quarters so much after that time Also  
those  
that shall be delinquent having not performed their proportion of Said labor as above the  
surveyors shall return their lists to the Selectmen by the first of October next and Said  
Selectmen  
are by directed to add such delinquent proportion to the Town tax requiring the constable  
to levy  
& collect the same and pay it to the Treasurer of the Said Town and to be accountable for  
the  
same as other assessment to his committee

Fifthly      This article respecting Reverend Mr Sargeant salary was omitted

Sixthly     Voted not to pay Said committee as inserted in Said Warrant who were chosen to  
prosecute those that inoculated for the small pox by voted in the negative

Seventhly   Voted that swine go at large being yoked and ringed as the law directs the year ensuing

Eighthly     Voted the road or way that laid out by the Selectmen as set forth in the Warrant across the  
west  
end of Carltons (Carlton's) hill be not accepted and adjourned to Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> of  
March  
instant then meet and Choose (chose) Jonathan Swan, Treasurer the year ensuing  
accepted  
William Gutterson constable instead of John Barker then Choose (chose) Joseph Huse as  
constable and accepted James Silver instead of Joseph How

Then dissolved Said meeting

### **May/June Meeting 1779**

**Essex** To James Silver one of the Constables of the Town of Methuen **Greeting** - you are required in the name of the Government and People of the state of Massachusetts Bay to warn all the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of Said Town that are qualified to vote for a Representative to meet at the old meeting house in Said Town on Thirsday (Thursday) the Twentieth day of this Instant (1779) May at four of the o'clock in the afternoon then and there to act on the following particulars

First To Choose (chose) a Moderator for Said meeting

Secondly To see if the Town will Choose (chose) at this time to have a Constitution or form of Government made

Thirdly To see if the Town will empower their Representative for the next year to vote for the calling of a State Convention for the sole purpose of forming a new Constitution

Hereof, fail not and make Return of this Warrant and your doing to one of us the Subscribers at or before Said meeting in Methuen the fifth day May 1779

|               |           |
|---------------|-----------|
| John Huse     | Selectmen |
| Cutting Marsh | } of      |
| Jacob Messer  | Methuen   |

Pursuant to the Warrant within mentioned I have warned all the freeholders and other Inhabitants to meet at the time & place within mentioned

James Silver Constable of Methuen

### **May 20<sup>th</sup> 1779**

The inhabitants of Methuen met agreeable to the above Warrant and chose Mr. John Huse as Moderator for Said meeting and voted not to instruct a representative for calling a convention for forming a new constitution or form of government at this time. There was fifty in the negative and not one in the affirmative.

**Essex:** - To William Gutterson, one of the Constables of the Town of Methuen **Greeting** You are required in the name of the Government and People of the state of Massachusetts Bay to warn all the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Methuen that are voters as the law directs to meet at the old meeting house in Said Town on Tuesday the 29<sup>th</sup> of this instant at three of the clock in the afternoon then and there to act on the following particulars viz.

First To Choose (chose) a Moderator for Said meeting

Secondly To see what sums of money the Town will raise to defray the contingent charges of the Town the current year

Thirdly Whereas there is a number of firearms belonging to the Town deposited with the Town Treasurer  
to see if the Town will dispose of the same and in what manner.

Hereof, fail not and make return of the Warrant with your doings thereon to one of us the Subscribers at or before the time of the meeting

Given under our hands and seals this **19<sup>th</sup> of June 1779**

John Huse      } Selectmen  
Cutting Marsh } of Methuen

**At the above meeting** the Town chose Stephen Barker as Moderator for the Said meeting

Voted to raise 2000 pounds to defray Town charges the year ensuing

Voted the selectmen sell all the 5 arms belonging to the Town as soon as may be for the most  
they will fetch and pay the money for Said guns to the Treasurer of Said Town then Said  
meeting was resolved, he giving his receipt for the same

## **July Meeting 1779**

**Essex:** - To Mr. James Silver, one of the Constables of the Town of Methuen  
In the name of the Government and People of this State you are hereby required to warn  
the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town who are qualified by law to vote in  
Town affairs

to meet at the old meeting house in Said Town on Monday the 12<sup>th</sup> of July next at five of  
the clock in the afternoon then and there to act on the following particulars Viz.

First To Choose (chose) a Moderator for Said meeting

Secondly To see if the Town will show cause why the prayer of the petition of Thomas Noyce and  
others to the Court of General Sessions of the Peace for a way or road through land of  
Capt John and Capt Henry Bodwell as by Said petition doth more fully appear: Should  
not be granted or to act on the mAtt (At)er as they shall think proper

Thirdly To see what the Town will act concerning five men hired for this Town into the  
Continental Army now claimed by the Town of Falmouth as appeareth by Colonel  
Hutchinson's letter to the Selectmen directed

John Huse      Selectmen

Cutting Marsh } of  
Jacob Messer Methuen

Fail not, make Return of this Warrant with your doings thereon to one of us the Subscribers on or before Said meeting - Given under our hands & seal this **28 day of June 1779**

John Huse Selectmen  
Cutting Marsh } of  
Jacob Messer Methuen

Pursuant to the Warrant above written I have warned the freeholder and other Inhabitants above mentioned to meet at time and place above directed

James Silver Constable of Methuen

### **July 12, 1779**

First The Town met and chose James Ingalls Moderator for Said meeting

Secondly Voted to shew (show) cause why the petition of Thomas Noyce and others should not be granted by the Court of General Sessions of the Peace respecting the road the west side of Carlton Hill then voted to Choose (chose) Stephen Barker Esq. to Att (At)end the court as above for that purpose and to lay the account of his expenses before the Selectmen and have anord (?) on the Treasurer for so much as they think proper and reasonable

John Huse Selectmen  
Cutting Marsh } of  
Jacob Messer Methuen

Pursuant to the Warrant within written and have warned the Freeholders and other Inhabitants within mentioned to meet at time and place within directed

James Silver Constable of Methuen

**Essex:** - To James Silver one of the Constables of the Town Methuen  
**Greeting:** You are required in the name of the Government and People of this State to warn all the male Inhabitants of the Said Town of Methuen being freemen and twenty one years of age to meet at the old meeting house in Said Town on Monday the Twelfth of July next at six of the clock in the afternoon then there to action the following particulars viz.

First To Choose (chose) a Moderator for Said meeting

Secondly To elect one or more Delegates to represent them in a Convention to be held at Cambridge on the first day of September next for the sole purpose of forming a Constitution for this state

Fail not and make Return of this Warrant and your doings thereon to one of us the Subscribers at or before the time of meeting:

Given under our hands and seals **this twenty eighth of June 1779**

John Huse      Selectmen  
Cutting Marsh }      of  
Jacob Messer      Methuen

I have warned all the male Inhabitants being free and 21 years old according to the within Warrant to meet at the time and place within this Warrant mentioned

James Silver Constable of Methuen

## **July 12, 1779**

Met and chose Mr. James Ingalls as Moderator for Said meeting

Secondly Voted and chose Lieutenant John Sargent a Delegate to Att (At)end and represent the Town in the Convention at Cambridge for the sole purpose of forming a new Constitution of Government for this State and instructed him agreeable to a resolve of the House of Representatives of June 15<sup>th</sup> 1779 on the first day of September next

## **August Meeting 1779**

**Essex: -** To Mr. James Silver, one of the constables of the Town of Methuen  
**Greeting** You are required in the name of the Government and People of the State of the Massachusetts Bay to warn the freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Methuen qualified by law to vote in Town affairs to meet at the old meeting house in Said Town on Thirsday (Thursday) the nineteenth day of this instant August at three of the clock in the afternoon then and there to act on the following particulars viz.

First To Choose (chose) a Moderator for Said meeting

Secondly To see if the Town will approve of and carry into effect or execution the Resolutions and Regulations of the prices of the several articles numerated by the Convention held at Concord for that purpose on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July last

Thirdly To see if the Town will send one man or more as Delegates to the Convention to be held at Concord the first WedneSaiday (Wednesday) in October next

Fourthly To see if the Town will in consideration of the uncommon Continental tax allow the present Constable some bounty for gathering the Continental or State Tax immediately to be levied

Fail not make and Return of this Warrant and your doing thereon to one of us the Subscribers at or before time of Said meeting

Given under our hands and seals this fifth day of August 1779

John Huse      } Selectmen  
Cutting Marsh } of Methuen

Pursuant to the Warrant within I have warned the Inhabitants within mentioned to meet at time and place within directed

James Silver Constable of Methuen

## August 19, 1779

First The Town assembled agreeable to the above Warrant and Choose (chose) Lieutenant John Huse as Moderator for Said meeting

Secondly Voted to put into execution the Regulations of the Convention held at Concord in the County of Midlesex (Middlesex) in State of the Massachusetts Bay on July last to regulate the prices of the necessities of life and articles of the merchandise and voted to Choose (chose) a committee of 13 to affix prices Viz.

|                  |                      |                  |
|------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| William Webster  | Capt. David Whittier | Cutter Marsh     |
| Capt. John Davis | Jonathan Swan        | John Chickering  |
| John Sargent Jr  | Capt. James Mallon   | Moses Sargent    |
| Richard Hall     | Oliver Emerson       | Col. Thomas Poor |
| Nathaniel Messer |                      |                  |

Likewise chose Mr John Chickering to Att (At)end a Convention at Ipswich in the County of

Essex and adjourned to this day fortunate to lay the proceedings of the committee before  
the  
Town for their acceptance

Thirdly Met by adjournment September 9<sup>th</sup> 1779 and voted to send a Delegate to a Convention to  
sit at Concord on the first WedneSaiday (Wednesday) in October next and Jonathan  
Swan was chosen  
and likewise voted their acceptance of the prices of articles as affixed by the ---  
committee

Fourthly Respecting this article of the Constable being paid something by the Town voted in the  
negative

## **October Meeting 1779**

**Essex** To James Silver one of the constables of the Town of Methuen,  
**Greeting** in the name of the Government and People you are required to warn all the  
Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Methuen qualified by law to vote in  
Town affairs to meet at the old meeting house in Said Town on Monday the Eleventh  
Day of this Instant October at Two Oclock in the afternoon then and there to get on the  
following particulars Viz./

First To Choose (chose) a Moderator for Said meeting

Secondly To receive and allow Town debts

Thirdly To answer to a petition of Sundry Inhabitants of the Town to see if the Town will allow  
Lieutenant James Silver a premium for gathering the last State Tax

Hereof fail not & make Return of this Warrant with your doings thereon to one of us the  
Subscribers on or before the Said day of meeting given under our hands and seal this  
**First Day of October 1779**

John Huse      Selectmen  
Cutting Marsh } of  
Jacob Messer    Methuen

Pursuant to the Warrant within I have warned the Freeholders and other Inhabitants  
within mentioned to meet at time and place within directed

**At a legal meeting of the Town of the above day** vote and chose Mr James Ingalls as  
**Moderator**

Voted John Huse for a journey to Ipswich 6-0-0

Voted for 129 feet of white oak plank 15-0-0

Voted to Stephen Barker Esq. being an Att (At)orney at Newbury Court in behalf of the Town  
to prevent Sundry of the Inhabitants of Methuen from having a road laid out the west side  
of Carltons Hill so called 15-0-0

Voted James Davison for a days worth at the small pox house last year  
1-0-0

Voted Moses Sargent one day at Said house 0-10-0

Voted Francis Swan for two days of himself & one day of 4 oxen 1-15-0

Voted James Frye for 1 day of himself and 4 oxen 1-5-0

Voted to James Silver gathering the last State Tax 30-0-0

## November 25, 1779

**Essex** To Mr. William Gutterson one of the Constables of the Town of Methuen  
**Greeting** You are required in the name of the Government and People of the State  
of the Massachusetts Bay to warn the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of  
Methuen  
qualified by law to vote in Town affairs to meet at the Old Meeting House in Town on  
Thirsday (Thursday) the 25 of this Instant November at Two of the Clock in the  
afternoon then and there  
to act on the following particulars/Viz/

To Choose (chose) a Moderator for Said meeting

2dly To see if the Town will take into consideration the proceedings of the Convention held at  
Concord on the **6 Day of October 1779** and act thereon as they shall think proper

3dly At the request of Mr Jonathan Swan Town Treasurer to see if the Town will vote that he  
the Said Swan shall grant out executions of those delinquent Constables who were in  
office before the  
present year or to act on the mAtt (At)er as the Town shall think proper

Fail not and make Return of this Warrant and your doing to one of us the Subscribers at  
or before  
the time for the meeting given under our hand & seal this **8 Day of November 1779**

John Huse      }Selectmen  
Cutting Marsh } of Methuen

Pursuant to the above, I have warned the Inhabitants of the Town of Methuen to meet at the time and place as above

William Gutterson Constable of Methuen

**November 25, 1779**

The Town assembled and chose James Ingalls as Moderator for Said meeting

Secondly To see if the Town will take into consideration the doings of the Convention at Concord  
on the  
6<sup>th</sup> of October & it was voted in the negative

Thirdly At the request of Jonathan Swan Town Treasurer that he should send executions to all  
the delinquent Constables below the present year and voted in the negative

**Essex** To Mr William Gutterson One of the Constables of the Town of Methuen  
**Greeting** You are required in the Name of the Government and People of this State  
to warn  
the freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Said Town that are qualified by law to vote  
in Town affairs to meet at the Old Meeting House in Said Town on WenSaiday  
(Wednesday) the Eight  
Day of March Next at Ten of the Clock in the forenoon then and there to act on the  
following Particulars/Viz.

1ly To Choose (chose) Moderator for Said Meeting

2dly To Choose (chose) Town Officers as the law directs

3dly To see if the Town will vote that the swine shall go at large the year ensuing

4thly To see how much money the Town will vote to raise to repairing the Highways and  
private ways the year ensuing

Fifthly To see what the Town will do concerning the school or schools

Seventhly To see if the Town will Choose (chose) a committee to reckon with the Town Treasurer

Eighthly To bring in and allow Town Debts

Hereof fail not and make a return of this Warrant and your doings thereon to one of us  
the Subscribers on or before the time of the meeting

Given under our hands and seal this **Twenty first day of February 1780**

John Huse      Selectmen  
Cutting Marsh }      of  
Jacob Messer      Methuen

Pursuant to the above Warrant I have warned the Inhabitants of Methuen to meet at the time and place within mentioned – William Gutterson Constable of Methuen