

Vote of first town meeting says 'swine shall goe at large'

The following is an account of the actions taken at Westford's first town meeting 260 years ago:

"Wesford, March the 2d, 1729/3'30.

"At a general Town meeting of the freeholders and other inhabitants of the sd town Regularly Assembled to Chuse Town officers for the year ensuing.

"Dea. [Deacon] John Commings Chose moderator for the work of the day.

"Voted to Chuse five Selectmen for the year ensuing.

"Dea. Joshua Fletcher Chose the first Selectman. Dea. John Commings Chose the second Selectman. Samuel Chamberlin Chose the third Selectman. Ins. Joseph Keyes Chose the fourth Selectman. Thomas Reed Chose the fifth Selectman. Dea. Joshua Fletcher chose Town Clerk. Samuel Faset, Town Treasurer.

"Constables - Aaron Parker and Aquila Underwood; Surveyors of Highways - Elias Foster, Ephraim Hildreth, Henry Wright and Andrew Spaulding; Tithingmen - Benjamin Robins and James Hildreth, Jun.

"Fence viewers - Joseph Hildreth Jr. and William Reed.

"Hogg reaves - William Butterfield and Ebenezer Hildreth.

"The above named persons were Sworn to the faithful Discharge of their Respective offices as the law directs.

"Voted the day above sd that swine shall goe at large - that Samuel Fletcher Senier's head shall be left out of the rates for the year ensuing. Voted the day above sd to Joine with Capt. Jonas Prescott, Ebenezer Prescott, Ebenezer Townsend and Abner Kent, all of Grotton in Petitioning to the General Court in ordere to their being anexed to Wesford Township. Voted - the Selectmen shall apoint a man to Joine with the above sd Persons in Petitioning to the General Court inordere to their being anexed to Wesford Township.

Joshua Fletcher
Town Clerk of Wesford"

This account was submitted by June W. Kennedy.