

BY-LAWS

OF THE

Town of Southbridge,

ANNUAL MEETING.

SECTION 1. The annual meeting of the town shall be held on the first Monday in March.

CALLING MEETINGS.

SECTION 2. Every town meeting shall be notified by publishing an attested copy of the warrant in a newspaper printed within the town, the two weeks next preceding the meeting, or by posting up such attested copies in four conspicuous public places within the town, at least nine days—including therein two Sundays—before the day for holding the meeting.

TOWN OFFICERS.

SECTION 3. The number of town officers mentioned in this section shall be as follows:

Three Selectmen.

Three Assessors.

Three Overseers of the Poor.

Three or more Constables.

Seven Field Drivers.

Three Fence Viewers.

Three Surveyors of Lumber.

Three Auditors of Accounts.

The town may at any annual meeting increase the number of selectmen to five or seven, and the selectmen may also be overseers of the poor under the provisions of the General Statutes. The town shall also elect a library committee of nine persons, one-third of whom shall be chosen annually and continue in office three years, and serve without compensation.

FISCAL YEAR.

SECTION 4. The fiscal year of the town shall close on the 31st day of January, and all accounts shall be made up to that time.

TREASURER.

SECTION 5. All monies raised and received for the support of schools, for the support of the poor, for repairing highways and bridges, for constructing sidewalks, gutters and crossings, for repairing school houses, for supporting the public library, for paying debts, interest and discount on taxes, for the payment of contingent expenses, for insurance of town property, and for personal services of town officers, shall be regarded as specific appropriations to be applied only to the purposes designated. But money may also be appropriated for other specific purposes. The treasurer shall keep separate accounts with each appropriation of money voted by the town, and no money shall be paid out except for the purposes for which it was appropriated, nor shall any transfer be made from one account to another except by vote of the town. All money's received by the treasurer not specially appropriated shall be kept in an account of unappropriated funds, to be disposed of as the town may direct.

The overseers of the poor, the school committee, the road commissioners, when such officers exist, and the library committee shall have authority to draw orders on the treasurer to pay the appropriations in their several departments after the bills or claims shall have been allowed by the auditors; and for all other purposes, the selectmen shall draw their orders on the treasurer, after the bills have been audited; but no orders drawn on the treasurer except by the selectmen in settlement of suits as herein provided shall be paid by him until he shall be informed by the auditors that the several amounts thereof have been allowed by them as hereinafter provided. The treasurer of the town shall prepare a report of all receipts and payments with a statement of the balances of each account, and of the notes and claims in his hands belonging to the town, and of all notes or obligations given by him and outstanding against the town, and an inventory of the personal property of the town in the possession of the several departments, in writing or print, to be presented at each annual town meeting.

SELECTMEN.

SECTION 6. The selectmen shall have the general direction and management of the property and affairs of the town in all matters not otherwise provided for; they shall appear and act, and may employ counsel in all suits at law or in equity in which the town is a party;

and may audit and settle claims in suit against the town and draw orders on the treasurer in payment thereof, which the treasurer shall pay without further auditing, if there be money in his hands therefor. And in all cases when not otherwise voted the selectmen shall have charge of all new buildings erected for the town and all special additions, improvements or repairs on the same. Whenever highway surveys are appointed to take charge of highways, the selectmen shall so far as may be examine and allow their accounts of expenditures on highways subject to the approval of the auditors, and draw orders on the treasurer in favor of the surveyor, in payment thereof.

ASSESSORS.

SECTION 7. Whenever the assessors shall have committed any tax list to the collector, they will immediately certify to the selectmen, and to the town treasurer the amount of such tax list and of each appropriation, to whom committed, and at what time the collector is required to pay over the money collected thereon. But no tax list shall be committed to any collector until his bond, required by law, has been procured and accepted by the selectmen, due notice thereof being given to the assessors.

OVERSEERS OF POOR.

SECTION 8. The overseers of the poor shall have the general charge and management of the farm and the property connected therewith, and may employ a superintendent and other necessary laborers, subject however to the specific votes of the town in relation thereto and to the proper payments and expenditures of this department.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

SECTION 9. The library committee shall, subject to the special direction of the town, have the care of the library rooms, the furnishing, warming, lighting, and repair of the same; the authority to select and purchase books: to appoint and pay the librarian and assistants; have the general control of the library, with power to make all needful regulations for the management and use thereof. They may also accept any donations to the library upon such terms as they may judge proper, and do such other things as they may regard for the benefit and advantage of the institution.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

SECTION 10. The several boards of town officers herein authorized to draw orders on the treasurer, shall pay all money's belonging to the

town received by them in their respective departments from the sale of property, or from any other source whatsoever, to the treasurer, and draw orders on him in payment of money on any contract, or for expenditures incurred by them. They shall, so far as practicable, transact all the business coming under their supervision at meetings of the several boards at which a majority of the members are present, and also keep a record of all contracts, payments of money and all other transactions had by them,—and at the close of each fiscal year prepare a report of all their doings, with a statement in detail of all their payments and expenditures, and all liabilities incurred by them, including all outstanding orders and claims against the town, and also an inventory of all property of the town in their hands, or under their care, and all debts due to the town and submit an estimate of the probable expenses of the town for the ensuing year in their several departments. Whenever the selectmen are made overseers of the poor, or have charge of the highways, they shall perform the same duties in each of such departments.

The inventories of the several boards aforesaid of all town property in their possession shall be returned to the treasurer annually in writing, showing the estimated value thereof.

The books of valuation and assessment of taxes, all deeds, bonds, policies of insurance on town property, and other valuable papers shall be in the custody of the town clerk for safe keeping and preservation. Said clerk shall also see to all insurance on town property, and keep the same properly insured.

AUDITORS.

SECTION 11. The auditors of accounts shall meet at least once in each month and examine and audit all claims, bills and accounts against the town and shall allow all such as appear to be just and right and shall endorse their approval thereon, or their rejection thereof, and they shall also report at once all claims, bills and accounts approved by them to the town treasurer; but no bills, claims or accounts shall be audited except at meetings when at least a majority of the auditors are present. And the auditors shall keep full accounts and records of all their proceedings and transactions. At the close of the fiscal year they shall examine the accounts of the treasurer, and and of each of the other boards of officers and all vouchers presented by them, and make a written or printed report thereon to be submitted to the town at the annual meeting, the report to include the account of the treasurer as prepared by him, and so much of the accounts of the other officers as the auditors may deem expedient, with such statements

and remarks in regard to the legality or propriety of any transaction or expenditures as in their judgment the interests of the town require.

PENAL LAWS.

SECTION 12. No person shall play at any game of ball, or foot ball, or throw balls or stones, or snow-balls within any of the streets or public places of either of the villages of the town; nor shall any person deposit within any such streets or public places any ashes, cinders, offal, filth, rubbish or any waste matter whatever.

SECTION 13. No person shall course, coast or slide down, across, in or along any of the streets or highways of the town, upon any hand-sled, board, jumper or otherwise, except at such places and under such restrictions and regulations as the selectmen shall designate and require.

SECTION 14. No owner or person having for the time the care and use of any horse, shall ride, drive or permit the same to go at a faster rate of speed than ten miles an hour in any street-way or public place in either of the villages of the town, nor in such a manner as to endanger or unreasonably incommode passengers therein; nor shall any person ride or drive any horse, or horses, or cause the same to be ridden or driven for trial of speed in any street or highway of the town unless by permission of the selectmen.

SECTION 15. No person shall drive any carriage or other vehicle upon or over any hose pipe, or hose in use, when placed in any street or highway by order of the chief engineer, or any other officer of the fire department.

SECTION 16. No person shall fire or discharge any gun, fowling piece or fire-arm, or make any bonfire, or other fire in any street or public place in any of the villages of the town, unless by permission of the selectmen.

SECTION 17. No person shall wheel, drive or draw any coach, cart, hand cart, hand barrow, sled or other carriage of burden or pleasure (except children's hand carriages drawn by hand) or drive or permit any horse, neat cattle or sheep under his care to go or stand upon any sidewalk or stand upon any street crossing, so as to obstruct public travel.

SECTION 18. Three or more persons shall not collect, stand or be together in a group, or near to each other on any sidewalk in such

manner as to obstruct a free passage of foot passengers for a longer time than ten minutes at any one time, nor more than three minutes after a request to move on, or disperse, made by any constable or other officer of the peace.

SECTION 19. No person shall behave himself in a rude and disorderly manner, or use any indecent, profane, or insulting language in any street, highway or other public place in the town, or near a dwelling house, or other building not his own therein, or be or remain upon any sidewalk, or upon any doorstep, portico or other projection from any such house, or other building, nor in any church, meeting house, public hall or entrance thereto, to the annoyance or disturbance of any person; nor shall any person at, near or upon any such dwelling house, building, sidewalk, doorstep, portico, or projection, or any such meeting house, public hall, or entrance thereto, commit any nuisance or by any noise, gesture or other means wantonly and designedly drive or frighten any horse in any street, highway or public place in the town.

SECTION 20. No person shall allow any sink water, or other impure water to run from a house, barn or lot occupied by him, or under his legal control, into any street or highway in the town.

SECTION 21. No person shall expose or offer for sale from any stand in or upon any street or in any public place in the town any article of merchandise or any other thing whatsoever without the permission from the selectmen of the town, *provided*, that this section shall not apply to any person offering for sale any products of the land or of his own industry, or of peddling from any wagon or cart from house to house.

SECTION 22. Occupants of buildings and lands abutting on sidewalks duly established by law, and in case such buildings or lands are unoccupied, the owner thereof shall cause all snow and ice to be removed within twenty-four hours after the same shall have accumulated thereon.

TRUANT LAWS.

SECTION 23. All children wandering about the streets and places of public resort in the town, having no lawful occupation, and growing up in ignorance, between the ages of seven and fifteen years and residents of the town, shall upon their names becoming known to the school committee be required to attend such of the public schools of

the town and for such length of time as shall be designated by said school committee. And any minor child between the ages named in this section neglecting without good cause shown to attend the school designated for him and her as provided in this section, or neglecting attendance upon the public schools, without such cause, shall be deemed an habitual truant.

SECTION 24. Every person in this town having under his legal control a minor child between the ages named in the preceding section, shall send such child to some public school in said town annually at least twelve weeks, six weeks of which shall be consecutive, unless good cause can be shown to excuse such attendance.

SECTION 25. The town shall at its annual meeting appoint at least two of the constables of the town truant officers, who alone shall be authorized, in case of a violation of the two preceding sections, to make complaint and carry into execution the judgment thereon.

SECTION 26. A minor convicted under the foregoing 23d and 24th sections, may, instead of the fines provided in the by-laws, be committed by the court or justice having jurisdiction of the case to any such institution of instruction, house of reformation, almshouse, or other suitable situation provided for the purpose, for such term not exceeding two years, as such court or justice shall determine.

PENALTIES.

SECTION 27. Any person violating any of the provisions of the preceding by-laws shall be punished by a fine of not less than one nor more than twenty dollars for each offense to be forfeited and paid to the use of the town, unless when different provision is made by the laws of the commonwealth.

SECTION 28. All by-laws heretofore adopted by the town are hereby repealed.

A true copy of By-Laws adopted by the inhabitants of Southbridge at their annual town meeting on the fourth day of March, 1872, and at an adjournment thereof on the twenty-fifth day of March, 1872.

Attest:

SAMUEL S. PERRY, Town Clerk.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

WORCESTER, SS.

SUPERIOR COURT, March T., 1872.

The foregoing By-Laws are examined and approved by the Court.

Attest,

JOSEPH MASON, Clerk.

A COPY OF THE RECORD.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Court this twenty-fourth day of July, 1872.

Attest,

JOSEPH MASON, Clerk.