

HANOVER'S FIRST ANNUAL TOWN MEETING AND ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION

The first Town Meeting (nowadays it would be called a Special Town Meeting) in Hanover was held on the 29th day of June 1727, as soon as possible after the incorporation of the town on the 14th of June. Additional meetings were held in August, November, December and the following January. The first recorded Annual Town Meeting was documented in March of 1728 by Town Clerk William Wetherell (interestingly, the old style English custom dates used then still listed the year as 1727), and the transcription appears below. The original book is located in a fireproof cabinet in the Hanover Town Clerk's Office, and interested citizens are invited to view it by making an appointment with the Town Clerk or her assistant.

FROM THE FIRST RECORDED RECORDS OF THE TOWN OF HANOVER, PRESERVED VOLUME DATED 1727 – 1799

(The original spelling and grammar is left intact, but the spacing is changed to make it easier to read and understand):

“At a Town meeting held att hanover march the 2nd day 1727, the town made choyce of mr Joseph Barstow for the moderator and Willm Wethrell for there Town Clark

and Benjamin Curtis and James Hatch and Elijah Cushing for there Selectmen (and Assessors), and Job Otis and Thomas Bardin, Constables

and Thomas Bardin refused to serve and the town proseded in the choyce of another Constable and made choyce of Benjamin Silvester for there Constable

and Benjamin Barstow and James Hatch Jur and Joseph Curtice Survayers

Samuel Harlow and Hugh Vickery for tything men

and for fence vewers Amos Silvester Samuel Staples and Benjamin Curtis Jur

the Town voted that swine should goe at large and chose Benjamin Hanmer and Benjamin Man for hogreves

and John Stoddard sealer or Clark of the Market

and Samuel Stetson pound keeper

and mr Joseph Barstow Town Treasurer

and Caleb Barker and Abner Dwele field drivers

and Bachelder Wing grand jureman for the year insuing and James Hatch and Thomas Josselyn for pety Juremen to serve on the jure of trials the next Inferer Court

voted that the three agants to wit Elijah Cushing Joseph House and Abner Dwele that let out the meeting house to buld are to receve of Issac Buck the subscription money which he hath or may receive for the Towns youse and are to let it out to the workmen as they shall agree towards the payment of sd meeting house and and their receipt shall be your discharge

voted that sd town shall keep a skoole this presant year insuing at three plases where the selectmen shall think it most covenant for sd town.

William Wetherell Town Clark.”