

The Sudbury Tea Party Resolves

Four days after the Boston Tea Party, which was on December 16th, 1773, a warrant for a Town Meeting was posted for Sudbury to consider its reaction to the Boston Tea Party.

At the meeting on January 10th, 1774, the resolves were very verbose version of these:

- 1) No taxation without representation
- 2) That the British Parliament laying a Duty on Tea is an unjust Taxation
- 3) That we will lend all the aid and Assistance in our Power to the Town of Boston
- 4) That the Persons appointed by the East India Company have manifested wickedness
- 5) That who sells, buys, or uses Tea shall be deemed by us, Enemies to their Country's Welfare

Here are three versions of the report and resolves, as well as the Warrant that called for the meeting. The first is copied as text into this document. The second is the actual images from the Town Records and the third is a transcription by Sumner Chilton Powell, Ph. D. and students in preparation for the book, A Puritan Village. Assembled by YON - Jan C. Hardenbergh, December 3rd, 2023.

The images transcription are found in the digital files: Town Records 1755-1790 Book 6 Part I:

TS_1755_1790_V6_183.pdf

TS_1755_1790_V6_184.pdf

TS_1755_1790_V6_185.pdf

Town Records 1755-1790 Book 6 Part I transcribed.pdf

Note that the meeting is held in the West Side Meetinghouse, located in the modern Sudbury Town Center.

Warrant of December 20th, 1773

To Mr Jonas Holden one of the Constables of Sudbury, Greetings

These Order you to warn all the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of and belonging to Sudbury, (in your Ward) Qualified to Vote in Town Affairs, to meet at the West Meeting House in Sudbury on Monday the third Day of January Next, at one of the Clock in the after Noon on said Day, then and there

1st - To See if the Town will take into consideration the Papers sent to them, by the Town of Boston Relating to the Tea - sent to this Province, by the East India Company, subject to a Duty, or do or Act on said Affair, as the Town shall think proper when met

(This version skips the rest of the warrant, the January 3rd meeting which selected a committee to make a report at a meeting a week later)

Report to the Town Meeting on January 10th, 1774

The Town being met According to the aforesaid adjournment Proceeded.

The Committee appointed by the Town to take into consideration the affair relating to the Tea, sent here by the East India Company

Reported as follows viz:

Taking into Consideration, the late Conduct of Administration; together with an Act of Parliament, enabling the East India Company, to export their Teas into America, Free of all Duties & Customs in England, but liable to the Rules, Customs, Regulations, & Penalties in America; as are provided by

the revenue Act; We are justly Alarmed, at this Detestable Craft and Policy, of the Ministry; to deprive us of our American Liberties, Transmitted to us by our Worthy Ancestors, at no less expense, than that of their Blood and Treasure. That price our Renowned Forefathers freely paid, that they might transmit those Glorious Liberties as a free, full, and fair Inheritance to Posterity; which Liberties, through the Indulgent Smiles of Heaven, We have Possessed in peace and Quietness, till within a few years Past (Excepting in the Reign of the Detestable Stuarts) but now Behold! the pleasing scene is changed, the British Ministry, Assisted by the Inveterate Enemies to American Liberty, on this as well as on the other side of the Atlantick; Combining together to Rob us of our dear Bought freedom; have Brought us to this sad Dilemma, either to Resolve like Men in defence of our just Rights and Liberties or sink under the weight of their Arbitrary and unconstitutional measures, into a State of abject Slavery. - Therefore as Freeborn Americans, Entitled to all the immunities, Liberties and Privileges of Freeborn English Men; we look upon our Selves under the Strongest obligations to use our utmost Exertions in defence of our just Rights, in every constitutional Method within our Power Even though the Cost of the defence should equal that of the Purchase.

Therefore Resolved

1st - That we are Entitled to all the Privileges of British subjects we have an undoubted and exclusive Right to Grant our own monies for the support of Government and that no Power on Earth has a right to Tax or make Laws, binding us, without our consent.

2nd - That the British Parliament laying a Duty on Tea, Payable in America for the express purpose of Raising a Revenue, is in our Opinion an unjust Taxation, and that the Specious method of permitting the East India company to export their Teas, into the colonies has a direct tendency to rivet the chains of Slavery upon us.

3rd - That we will lend all the aid and Assistance in our Power, in every Rational method, to hinder the importations of Teas; so long as it is subject to a Duty; and that this Town are well pleased with and highly approve of that Resolution in particular, entered into by the Town of Boston viz: that they will not Suffer any Tea to be imported into that Town while subject to an unrighteous Duty; and it is the desire and expectation of this Town that said resolution be not relaxed in any Degree; which if it should it would much lessen that confidence (which we hope we may justly say) we have reason to place in that respectable Metropolis -

4th - That the Persons appointed by the East India Company to receive and vend their Teas (by their obstinate refusal to resign their odious Commission) Have shown a ready disposition to become the Tools of our Enemies, to oppress and enslave their Native Country and have manifested such Stupidity and wickedness, to prefer private Interest, to the good of their Country, and therefore can expect no favor or respect from us; but we leave then to accumulate a load of Infamy, proportionate to their Vileness.

5th - That whosoever shall sell, Buy, or otherwise use Tea, while subject to and poisoned with a Duty, shall be deemed by us, Enemies to their Country's Welfare; and shall be treated by us as Such.

Thomas Plympton, Ezekiel How, John Maynard, Sarson Belcher,
Phinehas Glezen, Josiah Langdon

The Town by their Vote Ordered the foregoing resolves to be recorded in the Town Book, and a Copy of the same to be forwarded to the Committee of Correspondence, at Boston, with our sincere thanks to that respectable Town, for their Manly Opposition, to every Ministerial Measure to enslave America

To Mr. Jonas Holder one of the Constables of Sudbury Greeting

These Order you to warn all the Freeholders and other Inhabitants off and belonging to Sudbury, (in your Ward) Qualified to Vote in Town Affairs, to meet at the West Meeting House in Sudbury on Monday the third Day of January Next, at one of the Clock in the Afternoon on said Day, then and there

1st To see if the Town will take into consideration the Papers sent to them, by the Town of Boston Relating to the Tea - sent to this Province, by the East India Company, Subject to a Duty, or do or Act on said Affair, as the Town shall think proper when met

2^d To see if the Town will Choose a Constable in the Room of Mr Nathaniel Loring, who has moved out of this Town

3^d To see if the Town will Act on what shall be laid before them by the Select Men, with respect to Mary Knight

And make due return of this Order with your doings thereon to the Select Men, or Town Clerk, at time and place above mentioned

By Order of the Select Men

Sudbury Decem^r 20th 1773

W^m Baldwin Town Clerk

In Observance of this Order I have warned and caused to be warned all the Freeholders and other Inhabitants, (in my Ward) to meet at time and Place

Jonas Holder Constable for Sudbury

January 3^d 1774

The return of the other three Constables Orders were as the Law Direct and Accepted by the Town

At a Town Meeting in Sudbury Legally Warned Jan^y 3^d 1774 the Town being ^{met} proceeded and Choose Mr John Maynard Moderator

1st Then the Papers sent us by the Town of Boston, Relating to the Tea sent here by the East India Company, were read and taken into consideration by said Town, and the Town chose a Committee to take into Consideration, the above Papers, and report their opinion thereon at the adjournment; and chose for their Committee the following Persons viz^t Mess^{rs}: Thomas Nympton, Ezekiel How, John Maynard, Garrison Belcher, W^m Baldwin, Phineas Glenier, & Josiah Langdon

3^d Article The Town by their Vote chose the following Persons a Committee viz^t Cap^t Ezekiel How Mr John Maynard & W^m Baldwin and fully empowered them to make Application to the Court of General Sessions of the Peace for the removal of Mary Knight from this Town to the Town of Marlbro^o

90 Then the Town by their Vote adjourned their Meeting to Monday the tenth Day of January Instant at two o' Clock P. M. on said Day to meet at the same Place

The Town being met according to the aforesaid adjournment Proceeded to
The Committee appointed by the Town to take into consideration the
Affair relating to the Tea, sent here by the East India Company
Reported as follows viz -

Taking into Consideration, the late Conduct of Administration;
together with an Act of Parliament, enabling the East India Compa-
ny, to export their Teas into America, Free of all Duties & Customs
in England, but liable to the Rules, Customs, Regulations, & Penalties
in America; as are provided by the revenue Act; We are justly
alarmed, at this Detestable Craft and Policy, of the Ministry; to
deprive us of our American Liberties, Transmitted to us by our
Worthy Ancestors, at no less expence, than that of their Blood and
Treasure. That since our Renowned Forefathers freely paid, that they
might transmit those Glorious Liberties as a free, full, and fair In-
heritance to Posterity; which Liberties, through the indulgent Smiles
of Heaven, we have Possessed in peace and Quietness, till within a
few years Past (excepting in the Reign of the Detestable Steuarts)
but now Behold! the pleasing scene is changed, the British Minis-
try, Assisted by the Invidious Enemies to American Liberty, on this
as well as on the other side of the Atlantick; combining together to
Rob us of our dear Bought freedom; have brought us to this sad
Dilemma, either to resolve like Men in defense of our just Rights
and Liberties or sink under the weight of their Arbitrary and unconsti-
tutional measures, into a State of abject Slavery. — Therefore
as Freeborn Americans, Intitled to all the immunities, Liberties and
Priviledges of Freeborn English Men; we look upon our selves under
the Strongest Obligations to use our utmost exertions in defense of
our just Rights, in every constitutional Method within our Power
Even though the Cost of the defense should equal that of the Purchase
Therefore Resolved —

- 1st That as we are Intitled to all the Priviledges of British subjects
we have an undoubted and exclusive Right to Grant our own mo-
nies for the support of Government. and that no Power on Earth has
a right to Tax or make Laws, binding us, without our consent.
- 2^{dly} That the British Parliament laying a Duty on Tea, Payable in America
for the express purpose of raising a Revenue, is in our Opinion an un-
just Taxation, and that the Specious method of permitting the East India
Company to export their Teas, into the Colonies has a direct tendency
to rivet the chains of Slavery upon us
- 3^{dly} That we will lend all the aid and Assistance in our Power, in every
Rational method, to hinder the importations of Teas; so long as it is
subject to a Duty; and that this Town are well pleased with and highly
approve of that Resolution in particular, entered into by the Town
of Boston viz: that they will not Suffer any Tea to be imported into
that Town while subject to an unrighteous Duty; and it is the desire
and expectation of this Town that said resolution be not relaxed in
any Degree; which if it should it would much lessen that confidence

+ (Which we hope we may justly say) we have reason to place in that respectable Metropolis

4th That the Persons appointed by the East India Company to receive and vend their Teas (by their obstinate refusal to resign their odious Commission) have shewn a ready disposition to become the Tools of our Enemies, to oppress and enslave their Native Country and have manifested such Stupidity and wickedness, to prefer private Interest, to the good of their Country, and therefore can expect no favor or respect from us; but we leave them to accumulate a load of Infamy, proportionate to their Vileness

5th That whoever shall sell, Buy, or otherwise use Tea, while subject to and poisoned with a Duty, shall be deemed by us, Enemies to their Country's Welfare; and shall be treated by us as such

The Town by their Vote Ordered the foregoing resolves to be recorded in the Town Book, and a Copy of the same to be forwarded to the Committee of Correspondence, at Boston, with our sincere thanks to that respectable Town, for their Manly Opposition, to every Ministerial Measure to enslave America

Thomas Plympton
Ezekiel How
John Maynard
Samson Belcher
Thinehas Glover
Josiah Langdon
} Committee

The Town by their Vote chose the following Gentlemen, a Committee of Correspondence viz^t Deacon Thomas Plympton Mr John Maynard Mr Samson Belcher Capt Ezekiel How & Mr Thinehas Glover

2^d Article The Town by their Vote chose Mr James Carter a Constable in the Room of Mr Loring who is moved out of Town, and The Town accepted of Mr Edmund Parmenter to serve as Constable in the room of Mr James Carter

John Maynard Moderator

To Mr Edmund Parmenter One of the Constables of Sudbury Greeting

These Order you to warn all the Freeholders and other Inhabitants, off and Belonging to Sudbury (in your Ward) Qualified as the Law Directs to Vote in Town Affairs, to meet at the West Meeting House in Sudbury, on Monday the Seventh Day of March that at ten o' Clock fore Noon, then and there

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OCTOBER 1773
 JANUARY 1774

To Thaddeus Russell for 1 Days Work & 4 Oxen to Framingham) for a Rock 6/ for a Rock & 1 Days Work 7/6 _____)	- 13 6
To Cap ^t Heard for himself Son & 4 Oxen 1 Day to bring a Rock) from Framingham, three Rocks & Caring them 6 1/2 Days) my Self & Son & 5 Days Work of Oxen on s.d Bridge -)	2 7 6
To Aaron Maynard as Guardian for the Heirs of Simon ^{Maynard} ^ for land) taken from them by a Highway laid thro^ their lands in 1765)	1 10 -
To Moses Stone for Asa Travis, s Rates in 1770 _____	- 11 4
To L ^t Willis for Cash paid to George Mosman - - - - -	- - 8
To Daniel Bowker for Joseph Dakins Rates in 1772 - - - - -	- 15 6
To Edmund Parmenter for Josiah Woodward's Rates 1770 - - - - -	- 3 10
To Daniel Bowker for Building the North West School House -	18 - -
To D ^O for Building Lanham School House - - - - -	23 6 8
To Ambrose Tower for Building the School House near) the West Meeting House _____)	17 17 4
To W ^m Dudley for Building the Farm end School House -	26 13 4
To Jonas Loker for Sam ^l Duns. Rates in 1767 - - - - -	- 12 9
To Daniel Maynard for Warning two Town Meetings - - - - -	- 6 -
To Thomas Walker Jun ^r for Moses Goodenow Rates in 1770 & 71 -	- 5 9

W^m Baldwin Moderator

[page]

November 28

To M^r Jonas Holden one of the Constables of Sudbury Greeting

First shipload of tea arrives in Boston.

These Order you to warn all the Freeholders and other Inhabitants off and belonging to Sudbury, (in your Ward) Qualified to Vote in Town Affairs, to meet at the West Meeting House in Sudbury on Monday the third Day of January Next, at one of the Clock in in [sic] the after Noon on said Day, then and th^ere

December 16

1st To See if the Town will take into consideration the Papers sent to them, by the Town of Boston Relating to the Tea - sent to this Province, by the East India Company, subject to a Duty, or do or Act on said Affair, as the Town shall think proper when met _____

Boston Tea Party.

2^d To See if the Town will Choose a Constable in the Room of M^r Nathan Loring, who has moved out of this Town _____

JANUARY 1774

3^d To see if the Town will Act on what shall be laid before them by the Select Men, with respect to Mary Knights -

And make due return of this Order with your doings thereon to the Select Men, or Town Clerk, at time and place above mentioned

By Order of the Select Men

Sudbury Decem^r: 20th 1773

W^m Baldwin Town Clerk

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January y^o 3^d 1774

Jonas Holden Constable for Sudbury

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JANUARY 1774

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JANUARY 1774

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- Thomas Plympton)
- Ezekiel How)
- John Maynard) Committee
- Sarson Belcher)
- Phinehas Glezen)
- Josiah Langdon)

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