

WHAT THEY WERE THINKING

Then, as now, the Town was governed by Town Meetings. As required by law, annual Town Meeting was held in March, during which the “Freeholders and Other Inhabitants Qualified....to vote in Town Affairs” met to conduct the town’s business.

- At the March meetings, the regular business of the town was conducted. The town officers were elected; consideration was given to repairing the roads and at what cost; to consider whether to build or repair a school house; to elect constables to collect the taxes; to see whether the meetinghouses should be repaired or enlarged; and perhaps most curiously, to vote on whether the horses, sheep, and/or swine should be allowed “to go at large” during a specified part of the year.
- The men elected as officers had names familiar to residents of Sudbury: Ezekial How, John Maynard, John Noyes, Isaac Cutting, Thomas Plymton, Joseph Curtis, John Parmenter, Asher Cutler, Jabez Puffer, Hopestill Bent, Oliver Dakin, Joseph Willis, William Rice, Richard Heard, Aaron Haynes, and many more. These men played a crucial role in the government of Sudbury from 1765 to 1776, the time frame of this presentation.
- There was another meeting in October when the business was primarily the payment of bills and the accounting of taxes collected by the Constables.

We hope this presentation shows how the Revolutionary fever grew in Sudbury from October 1765 when the men of Sudbury penned an obsequious and pleading correspondence to “Our Most Gracious Sovereign George the Third” in response to the Stamp Act through to June 10, 1776 when they voted to support the declaration of independence.

These events occurred right here in this Meetinghouse 250 years ago.