

LAWS OF MARYLAND.

laying out public drains, water courses or landings, shall be determined or assessed by three disinterested persons, freeholders and residents of Wicomico County, and above the age of twenty-one years, who shall be appointed by the County Commissioners aforesaid, and shall, within ten days after notice of their appointment, take an oath before a justice of the peace of Wicomico County that they will faithfully and fairly and without partiality or prejudice value and assess the cost and damages to be suffered and incurred by any person interested in the said property over, through and by which the said road, drain, waterway or landing is to be opened, closed, extended, widened, graded or improved; and also to estimate the benefits that may accrue therefrom to any such property over, through and by which the said road, drain, waterway or landing is to be opened, closed, extended, widened, graded or improved or any property adjacent thereto, or any other property injured or benefited by said road, drain, water course or landing; they shall give at least fifteen days notice in one or more newspapers published in Wicomico County of their purpose to lay out, open, extend, close up, widen, straighten, grade or improve the road, drain, waterway or landing as directed to be laid out, opened, extended, closed up, widened, straightened, graded or improved, and of the day, hour and place of meeting for the said purpose; and shall meet at the time and place mentioned in the notice given by them and proceed to exercise the powers and perform the duty assigned to and required of them, and to ascertain whether any and what amount in value of the damages will be caused thereby for which the owner or occupant of any rights or interest, claimed in any ground or improvement ought to be compensated, over and above the amount in value of benefits which will thereby accrue to said owner or occupant thereof, and ascertain what amount in value of benefits will thereby accrue to any lot or parcel of ground by or through which the same may pass, or improvements made, or any other property or to the owner or occupant thereof, and which said lot or parcel of ground, or the owner or occupant thereof ought to pay. They shall locate boundaries and prepare an explanatory map giving description of the road opened, closed, extended, widened, straightened, or drain, water course or landing, with each separate lot or parcel of ground deemed to have sustained damage or received benefit, and they shall, within twenty days, return to the County Commissioners such maps, together with the amount of damage awarded such owner or occupant and the amount of benefits assessed to any lot or parcel of ground or the owner thereof,

Cost and damages.

To locate boundaries.