

notice shall be served by the bailiff by delivering to such owner a copy thereof or by leaving such copy for such owner at his usual place of abode with some member of his family over the age of fifteen years. Corporations shall be served with such notice in like manner as with summons in ordinary civil action. If service cannot be made on all or any of the parties aforesaid within the town the return shall so state, and be *prima facie* evidence of the facts stated therein. Whereupon said notice shall be published once a week for three weeks before the day for the sitting of said commissioners in some newspaper having a general circulation in said town; an affidavit of the publisher of said notice shall be evidence of the facts; service of the notice shall be made at least six days before the commissioners meet; it shall be sufficient to bring in the owners of and all persons claiming any interest in the property affected by such proceedings, who may be the owners or be interested therein at the time the ordinance providing for the improvement takes effect, and all parties claiming or holding through or under such owners or persons interested shall be bound by such proceedings. (c) The commissioners shall ascertain the just compensation to be paid as follows: First, for each piece of property taken, where the public use thereof shall be such that the town must have exclusive possession thereof, the actual value of the property taken; second, for each piece of property taken, when the public use thereof may be such that the town need only have such possession and control as will not wholly exclude the possession and beneficial use thereof by the owner, the actual damage from the public use specified in the ordinance. To pay such compensation, the commissioners shall assess against the town the amount of benefit to the town and public generally, and against the several lots and parcels of private property deemed benefited, the balance of such compensation; each lot or parcel of ground to be assessed with an amount bearing the same ratio to such balance as the benefit to each lot or parcel bears to the whole benefit to all the private property assessed. Parties interested may submit evidence to the commissioners, and the latter shall examine personally the property to be taken and assessed. The party owning any property taken, may remove any improvement therein. The verdict of the commissioners shall be signed by each commissioner, and delivered to the Mayor or persons acting in his stead, and contain a correct description of each lot or parcel of private property to be taken, and the value thereof, and the amount assessed against the town, together with a correct description of each lot or parcel of private property assessed, and the amount assessed against