

CHAP. 264.

those living on said branch, as also of rendering said lands arable, and as it is believed that this desirable object cannot be well accomplished without the aid of the Legislature, by passing an act to secure the joint exertions of all the proprietors of said branch, Therefore,

Company created

Section 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That the owners of all the marshes and low grounds situated on the right prong of the Andover branch, and the several prongs thereof, and drains making into the same, extending from the head of said branch to the main road leading from Sudlers roads to Smyrna, in the State of Delaware, or to the junction of the aforesaid right prong of the Andover branch, with the main stream of the Andover, or so far as a majority of the owners of the low lands on said branch may deem advantageous, and the owners of all the branches and low grounds, which will be benefited or improved by ditching and draining the same, and the several prongs making into the same, above the said junction or main road, as may be determined as aforesaid, shall compose a company, to be called the Andover Branch Company, and by that name may sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded.

Annual meeting

Sec. 2. *And be it enacted*, That the said company shall hold a meeting on the first Saturday in May, in the present year, and every year hereafter at the state house of Perigrine Peters, or at such other place as may be determined upon by a resolution of the company, adopted at a previous meeting, and such annual meeting may be adjourned from time to time as occasion may require.

Three commissioners

Sec. 3. *And be it enacted*, That the said company shall at the first meeting thereof, or some other meeting to be holden on some day prior to the last day of June, choose by ballot three substantial freeholders as commissioners, to lay out such ditch or ditches of such breadth, depth, length, course or courses, distance or distances, as will be sufficient to clear such marshes and low grounds of water, and to make a valuation and appraisement of said marshes and low grounds, and the said commissioners are hereby authorised and empowered to go upon and view the said marshes and low grounds, and to ascertain all the owners, and determine who will be benefited by ditching and draining the said marshes and low grounds, or by any ditches which for the draining and improving of any marsh or low ground ought to be cut and opened into the same, and the quantity of such marsh or low ground owned or held by each owner and by joint owners, if any be held undivided, and the said commissioners shall value and appraise all the marshes and

Authorized to view &c.

Appraise