

C H A P.
XIV.
Commissioners
to take an oath,
&c.

VI. AND BE IT ENACTED, That every commissioner to be appointed in pursuance of this act, before he shall proceed to execute his office, shall take an oath, or affirmation, before some justice of the peace, that he will diligently and faithfully, according to the best of his judgment, perform the duties of a commissioner of the said town, according to the directions of this act, without favour, partiality or prejudice; and a certificate of such qualification shall be made and returned by such justice of the peace to the said commissioners, to be filed and recorded among their proceedings.

To meet in
April, &c.

VII. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the said commissioners, or the major part of them, shall meet together at the court-house in the said town, or at such other public place within the limits thereof, as shall be previously notified, on the first Monday in April in the ensuing year, and statedly on the first Monday in every third month thereafter, and as much oftener, by adjournment, as they shall judge to be necessary; and when so assembled, the said commissioners, or the major part of them, shall proceed to execute the several powers and authority vested in them by this act, from time to time, as occasions shall require.

And recom-
mend plans,
&c.

VIII. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the said commissioners shall be and they are hereby authorized, empowered and required, to meet as aforesaid, and, from time to time, to recommend such plans and regulations as they shall judge beneficial to the town, or the inhabitants thereof; (a) to cause to be removed all nuisances and obstructions that may interrupt the passage of the said inhabitants, or others, in the streets, lanes and alleys, of the said town; to cause the principal or other streets to be repaired, improved or paved, whenever a majority of the said inhabitants shall reasonably require the same to be done, and sufficient sums of money can be raised, by subscription or otherwise, for this salutary purpose; to cause the inhabitants and others entitled to vote for commissioners according to this act, to be and to continue registered, and to make such alterations in the register thereof, from time to time, as the increasing number of inhabitants, or other changing circumstances, shall render necessary; to appoint and qualify a clerk, whose duty it shall be to keep fair and faithful minutes of their proceedings, in proper and well bound books to be provided by them for that purpose, and to be subject to the inspection and examination of the inhabitants of the said town, and of all persons who may be concerned; to cause the persons entitled to vote as aforesaid to be summoned, by public advertisement, to meet at some certain time and place within the limits of the said town, whenever their sentiments may be requisite upon any extraordinary occasion; to cause a just and fair assessment and valuation of all the property, real and personal, within the limits of the said town, to be made and returned, from time to time, by some skilful and discreet person, to be appointed and qualified by them for such occasion, and whenever it shall be deemed necessary, for any purpose advantageous to the town, by a majority of the voters to be summoned and assembled as aforesaid, to impose and levy on the property, so directed to be assessed and valued, any sum or sums of money in equal and fair proportions, (b) provided the money, so to be imposed and levied, shall not exceed, in any one year, the rate of one dollar for every hundred pounds worth of property, according to such respective assessments and valuation, and in the same proportion upon every greater or smaller share of property; to appoint and qualify an active and discreet person annually, to be the bailiff of the said town, and to give him such directions in the execution of his office as shall be necessary to accomplish the intentions of this act; to pay their clerk, and the bailiff of the said town, respectively, a reasonable allowance for their services, to be rated by the said commissioners on the property aforesaid by equal assessments; and, generally, to order and promote such regulations and improvements for the benefit and advantage of the said town, as the said commissioners, or the inhabitants thereof, shall determine to be necessary.

(a) By 1794, ch. 58, the commissioners are empowered to make regulations with regard to a wharf built at a place called Town Point, and the public road was established down to the said wharf.

(b) By ch. 23, they are empowered to lay a tax on billiard tables and dogs, and to make regulations for the collection, &c. By 1791, ch. 10, they are empowered to make by-laws for the regulation, &c. of the town, and the inhabitants, and to refrain disorders, &c. and are vested with the same powers that are given to the justices of the peace in any county by the act of November, 1789, ch. 8, to regulate the affize of bread.

Bailiff to be
appointed an-
nually, &c.

IX. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the bailiff of the said town shall be appointed annually on the first Monday in May, and before he shall proceed to execute his office, he shall take an oath, or affirmation, before the said commissioners, that he will faithfully and impartially perform the duties required of him, as bailiff of the said town, by this act, according to the best of his skill and judgment, and without favour, affection or prejudice; and the duties of the said bailiff shall be to attend the meetings of the said commissioners whenever he shall be required; to perform such services, for more effectually accomplishing the objects of this act, as shall be directed by the said commissioners; to prevent the tumultuous and irregular meetings of slaves, negroes, and other dissolute and disorderly persons, within the limits of the said town, or if so assembled, to disperse them by reasonable and