What's in a Name?

Read the following excerpt from a letter written by a resident of Barnstable, Massachusetts describing a town meeting on June 25, 1776 at which the matter of independence was discussed. Afterward, answer the following questions, underlining or highlighting evidence from the transcription that supports your response.

Excerpt of a letter from Joseph Otis, July 18, on the Proceedings of the Town of Barnstable

After it was debated largely whether the town would give any instructions to their Representatives, the question was put by yeas and nays. Thirty appeared for instructing, thirty-five against it. There was a long debate about declaring independency. One said "it was downright rebellion;" another, a staunch friend of Governor Hutchinson, said "our trade was as free as if we were independent;" and these were violently against the motion. And such-like weighty arguments, I suppose, obtained a majority against instructing, of which number our quondam Captain under Governour Hutchinson was one. The protestors, I am sure, for one, were far from rejoicing that the vote was carried as it was, and am as certain they have no desire of aspersing the town; though if exculpating themselves and stating facts "mortifies a part of the town, and our candid sneerer at the protestors amongst the rest, I am little solicitous about that consequence. I have no wish to set the town in a less reputable light. It is my opinion, if a certain party had not, by their boisterous, illiberal behaviour, intimidated the major part not to act, (for of one hundred and forty voters at the meeting sixty-five only voted upon the question,) the question would have been carried in favour of instructing, and the town would have saved its credit, at least in this affair.

What happened in Barnstable?

Why did the people of Barnstable choose not to publicly declare support for independence?
Did they all agree with this outcome?

Do you think the people of Barnstable would have considered themselves Loyalists? Why or Why not?