

Country Squires of New London, NH
Minutes for the Meeting on Thursday, June 14, 2018 at Eastman

***Invocation:** President Nowell asked Squire George West to give the Invocation: Mr. West spoke:

“Gracious and bountiful God, from whom all blessings flow, Bless our time together this morning with your Presence;

Bless this food we are about to receive and those who prepared it for us ... may it strengthen us for Your good work in our time with You in the days ahead. AMEN!”

***Luncheon:** We then enjoyed our luncheon of salad, chicken parmigiana on a bed of pasta, with chocolate cake for dessert.

***Call to Order:** President Tom Nowell called the meeting to order at 12:58 PM welcoming members, guests, New member Candidates and our guest speaker Mr. Don Wright.

***Guests and New Members:** At 1:00 O’clock President Nowell moved forward on membership to welcome members’ guests and new members:

Don Wright introduced Charles Collins, an accomplished bicyclist and golfer; Noel Weinstein introduced Kit Tatum, a recent (<5 years) US citizen; and Mort Lynn introduced Bill Sullivan, an investment advisor working in New London.

President Nowell also thanked Ted Jones for his work for officer recruitment, and re-introduced the new slate of officers to the members:

Tom Nowell, President
Paul Etkind, Secretary
Keith Christman, Treasurer
John Bellows, Treasurer

David Barber and Peter Rucci are the new Co Chairs for Membership.

***Speaker and Presentation:** President Nowell asked Art Rosen to introduce our guest speaker (and fellow Squire) Mr. Don Wright.

Art noted that today is Flag Day, and our speaker is second to none who have honored our flag. Don Wright joined the Air Force and rose from mechanic to pilot of bombers and fighters. He became a flight instructor and ultimately became a pilot of the U2 spy planes. Upon retiring, he became a pilot for American Airlines. Don spoke of “The

Cuban Missile Crisis Revisited,” in which he recounted his memories and views of the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Don began with a profile of the three major protagonists of the story: President John Kennedy, Premier Nikita Khrushchev, and President Fidel Castro. Some of the supporting “cast” in the US included Attorney General Bobby Kennedy, General Ed Lansdale, General Curtis LeMay, and Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara. He then went on to discuss preceding events that led to the missile crisis, including plans initiated during the Eisenhower Administration to invade Cuba to remove Castro from power and re-install a government friendly to the US. The invasion, conducted during the Kennedy presidency, was an appalling failure. This disaster, on the heels of a meeting in 1961 between Khrushchev and Kennedy in which Khrushchev embarrassed Kennedy with his greater command of history and politics, confirmed for the Russians that Kennedy was a weak President who could be pushed around. They were confident that Kennedy would not respond to a provocation of placing nuclear missiles in Cuba.

Kennedy had “grown up” following that 1961 meeting, and Khrushchev and Castro were not prepared for Kennedy’s resolve, willingness to meet force with force, and his artful diplomacy. Khrushchev blinked. The missiles were removed from Cuba (and from Turkey, which was not publicized at the time but was the face-saving measure for Khrushchev).

Don completed the lecture with his thoughts that, given Kennedy’s growth as a leader and artful diplomat, would we have become involved in Viet Nam. How could that have changed history?

***Post-talk Presentation:** Following Mr. Wright’s talk, president Tom Nowell presented him with the often imitated, always envied, and most prestigious Squires Mug. Mr. Wright stated the mug will be in a place of honor with others he has collected.

***New Business:** Tom Hull noted that the current slate of officers does not include a Vice-President. He nominated Jim Antell, who has served as Treasurer. Mr. Antell accepted the nomination and was unanimously elected with rousing applause.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday July 12. Julie Boardman will discuss “Death on the White Mountains.”

*** A Motion to Adjourn was called for and seconded thus ending the meeting.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Etkind, Secretary
15 June 2018

