

Country Squires of New London, NH
Notes for the Meeting on Thursday, September 13, 2018 at Eastman

***Call to Order:** President Tom Nowell welcomed members, guests, and our guest speaker Barbara Harper at noon.

President Nowell reminded all members that we are obliged to pay for all members who indicate they will attend a meeting. If you have reserved a lunch and then find your situation has changed and you cannot attend, please inform any of the officers or Membership Committee members as soon as possible so we can cancel your meal. Otherwise we may have to charge you for the uncancelled meal.

***Invocation:** Bruce Barton gave the Invocation. His thoughts were inspired by the September 11 attacks on the United States and he spoke of the lessons of the story "The Journey." Life can be described as a journey, a quest, or an odyssey. We don't always know the destination or where we are in relation to the destination, but the point of the journey is not the destination itself but is in the process of the journey.

***Luncheon:** We then enjoyed our luncheon of salad, barbeque, potato salad, vegetables and carrot cake for dessert.

***Guests and New Members:** At 1:00 O'clock President Nowell called the meeting to order by welcoming members' guests and electing new members.

Guests:

Bill Broger introduced Ed Blanchard. Ed graduated from Dickinson College and was a Naval anti-submarine warfare officer. In civilian life he had a career in human resources with Gillette, which gave him global experience. He now lives in New London.

New Members:

Hank Otto introduced last month's speaker, Dr. Don Catino. A graduate of Princeton and Cornell's Medical School, Dr. Catino served in the Army and has enjoyed a lifetime of world travel. He now practices at New London Hospital.

Hank Otto also introduced Roger Wren, who had a career at the Atlantic Mutual Company in New Jersey in community relations.

A motion to elect both was made and seconded. Both were elected unanimously and were given the famous and useful Squires pen.

***Speaker and Presentation:** Morris Edwards introduced our guest speaker Professor Barbara Harper. She has a PhD in music from the university of Indiana and has been on the Chair of the Department of Music at the University of Richmond and a member of

the music faculty of Southern Methodist University. She took the title of her talk from the book that she wrote, under the name of Stacy Parker, “No, Not Us! Our Son with Childhood Cancer.”

In a heartfelt, sometimes emotional and always compelling delivery, Professor Harper described the years-long process her family underwent after their 6-year old son Luke was diagnosed with an aggressive brain tumor in 1988. At that time, there was little information on childhood cancers, and the survival for children with brain tumors was 5 years. She marveled at how accommodating the physicians were and how excellent the care was. (Luke is now 25 years of age and is cancer-free). However, she said that, even with the best of care and the best physicians working on his team, there were still many opportunities for different decisions to have led to a different outcome. Her lessons learned included the following:

- Advocate for the patient unceasingly.
- Go for the best doctors, nurses and hospitals to be on your care team.
- Lean on your support group.
- Be sure you are included in all consultations.
- Get second and third opinions.
- Go to the best possible places for care.
- Be aware of changes of any signs and symptoms.
- Even the trivial aspects of care must be carefully observed (like when Luke’s hospital bracelet slipped up his arm and began to act like a tourniquet, blocking IV fluids and medications from entering his body).
- Do your own research.
- Follow your instincts.

***Post-talk Presentation:** Tom Nowell thanked Professor Harper for her talk and presented her with the often imitated but never duplicated and much-admired Squires mug.

***Old Business:** Members were again reminded that dues need to be paid by this meeting. The \$10 membership dues can be paid to the New London Country Squires or can be added to the usual meeting fee of \$18 upon arriving to the September meeting.

***New Business:** Morris Edwards noted that Professor Harper's talk was supposed to have included power point slides, but her laptop was not compatible with the Center's audio-visual system. He proposed that the Squires purchase a laptop of its own that will be compatible with the AV system to avoid similar situations in the future.

Members were reminded that the North Country Chords Men will be performing at Eastman on September 16.

***Next Meeting:** Our next meeting will be held on Thursday October 11. Members were reminded that the formal dress code (jackets and ties or turtle necks) will be in effect until next June. John Roberts will speak to us next month about John Adams.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Etkind, Secretary
17 September 2018