

**Country Squires of New London, NH**  
**Minutes for the Meeting on Thursday, May 9, 2019 at Eastman**

**\*Welcome:** At noon, President Tom Nowell welcomed members, guests, and our guest speaker Mr. Mark Winters, who is accompanied by his parents (Squire) Steven and Loa.

He also asked for approval of the April meeting minutes, which was approved unanimously.

**\*Invocation:** President Nowell gave the Invocation. He recited the poem written by Emma Lazarus, "The New Colossus."

**\*Lunch:** We then enjoyed our lunch of salad, garlic bread, chicken parmesan and pasta, and a dessert of tiramisu.

**\*Meeting:** At 1:00 O'clock President Nowell opened the meeting by asking members to introduce members' guests and possible new members.

Dave Blohm introduced Corey Burchman. Corey was our speaker two month ago and talked about the medical uses of cannabis. Corey retired from Dartmouth-Hitchcock after 33 years of being an anesthesiologist there and at Geisel. He got his undergraduate degree at Cornell, his MD from George Washington, and did his residency at Harvard. He has been active throughout his career with medical humanitarian activities. Corey was elected into membership unanimously.

Keith Chrisman introduced Mark Prowe. Mark bought a home in Sunapee in 2008 and retired after 25 years in the HVAC industry and moved to his vacation home in 2017. Mark is a former Marine; he volunteers at the Fells; and enjoys travelling, gardening, and woodworking. Mark was elected into membership unanimously.

Britt Helm introduced Bruce Soper. Bruce has homes in New London and Newbury. He spent his career managing shopping malls in MI, NY, NH and ME. Bruce was elected into membership unanimously.

Gus Seammus introduced Steve Semari. Steve retired to Wilmot after a 40-year career with RR Donnelly, a commercial printer located in Indiana. Steve was elected into membership unanimously.

President Nowell introduced two guests, Loa Winter and Robin Mapley.

**Lecture:** Steven Winter accepted the honor of introducing our speaker, Mark Winter. Mark is a native of the New London area. He graduated from Kearsarge Regional High School in 1984, Maine Maritime Academy in 1988, ND THE University of Maine School of Law in 1998. Mark served 30 years in the US Navy, both on active duty and in the

Reserves. One of his last assignments was as Chief of Staff of the Joint Task Force - Guantanamo, the organization responsible for detention operations in Cuba. Mark was previously the General Counsel at the National Maritime Intelligence Center and served on the Joint Chief of Staff in the Detainee Affair Branch. He now works on the staff of Senator Susan Collins from Maine.

Mark began with a brief recap of events. Ever since September 11, 2001 the United States has held detainees at a detention facility located on the US Naval Station at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Initially referred to as “unlawful enemy combatants,” and then unprivileged belligerents,” those detainees were a collection of foreign fighters captured by the US and its allies around the globe during the Global War on Terrorism. At one point, there were nearly 800 detainees held in Guantanamo; today there are 40. Mark then went on to discuss his main point: is there a difference between policy and politics, and which shapes the other? He gave his answers as “Yes,” and “Both.”

He then backtracked to give a history of the US base at Guantanamo. The US seized it in the war with Spain in 1898. The US signed a formal lease for the land in 1903. The current government considers the US presence to be illegal, so it has not been cashing the rent checks (~ \$18,000/year). Policy decrees we maintain the base there to be a thorn in the side of the Cuban government. However, the base has deteriorated greatly since the end of the Cold War. The politics of this is that there are no advocates for Guantanamo in Congress.

As the War on Terror was developing, Secretary of State Colin Powell urged the US observe the Geneva Convention. Many others urged the same goal. However, President Bush wanted a legal opinion that would allow for not observing the Convention. He got that opinion from Attorney John Woo, who said that since these were not legal fighters representing sovereign nations, they were illegal fighters. President Bush also promoted “enhanced interrogation techniques” (torture). Political machinations allowed this policy to be promulgated. The US Supreme Court ruled that the US had to observe due process. The Bush Administration tried to obey the Supreme Court while still detaining people without the Geneva Convention stipulations.

President Obama’s first Executive Order upon entering office was to close Guantanamo. This was not accomplished following eight years of political fighting. Guantanamo remained open.

Mark ended the talk stating that it is often difficult to distinguish policy from politics. He then hosted an active Q&A session.

**\*Presentation:** Following the talk, president Tom Nowell presented Mr. Winter with the often imitated, always envied, and most prestigious Squires Mug.

**Old Business:** President Nowell reminded the membership that , according to their will at the April meeting, he explored the possibility of having a meeting during the summer at the Sunapee Yacht Club. This meeting would be a special meeting in which wives and dates would be invited to attend. Unfortunately, the Yacht Club was unavailable for our meeting date.

**New Business:** None.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be on June 13. Dr. Ellen Flaherty will speak to us about aging.

**Motion to Adjourn:** A motion to adjourn was made and seconded, thus ending the meeting.

Paul Etkind, Secretary  
11 April 2019