

To All The Members Of The Country Squires

Minutes of the Meeting on July 13th, 2023

Garry Keane, President, called the meeting to order and introduced Rick Marsh to offer Words of Wisdom.

Rick Marsh gave a stirring rendition of "God Bless America" which lifted the spirits of the gathering. Kate Smith could not have done better!

Garry Keane retook the floor to deal with several issues:

1. Garry has been having issues with emails going to the membership. Hopefully this has been resolved.
2. A fraudulent email from Garry asking for help has gone out to some members, no doubt a hacking problem.....beware
3. We had a member resign over food/cost and what he feels is a diminution in the traditional comradery/friendliness in the group. Garry suggested that when members attend a meeting try to be engaging and welcoming to all members especially members that are new or attending the meeting alone. Anyone with problems on the food, programs, concerns should contact a member of the Executive Committee to discuss.
4. Proposed changes to the Country Squires By-Laws:
 - a. Article I: Membership, Section 1: **FROM:** "Applicants for membership must be men who are age 50 or older and able to attend at least six meetings a year, unless they live part-time away from New Hampshire." **TO:** "Applicants for membership must be men who are age 50 or older."
 - b. Article I: Membership, Section 2: **FROM:** "Complete the Squires application form, signed by one sponsor who is a member, and submit it to the Treasurer or Membership Committee." **TO:** "Complete the Squires application form, signed by one sponsor who is a member in good standing, and submit it to the Membership Committee."
 - c. Article I: Membership, Section 2: **FROM:** "Attend a subsequent meeting, where the applicant will be voted for admission." **TO:** "Attend a subsequent meeting, where the applicant will pay for his meal and be voted for admission."
5. Annual Dues \$25 are now duepay at the door with cash or check or mail to: Country Squires, PO Box 84, New London, 03257
6. Guests were introduced:
Joe Kubit introduced Tom Carley
Jeff White introduced Brian Brennan
7. New Members:
Tom Nowell, former member rejoined the Squires
John Wilson nominated new member Steve Ensign.....passed

Dave Wood introduced our speaker Peter Diamond

Peter, former Nobel Prize winner in Economics, spoke on the history and future of the Social Security System. The system which originally stood on relatively firm financial footing is nearing an inflection point where it will become insolvent unless significant reforms are initiated. When first devised the system was supported by many more participants contributing than obtaining benefits. However, with the aging population and actions by Congress, the underlying financial support has deteriorated and over the next 10 years significant reforms are needed to preserve the system. Unfortunately, Social Security is the ultimate political football and past reforms have been piecemeal and done at the last minute to avoid collapse. The political will to make the extreme changes necessary is up in the air and fixing the system will only come if there is a consensus among the various political constituencies. Given the current political divisions in DC the outlook is bleak.

The Next Meeting will be held on August 10th, 2023. Jamie Hess, a fellow Squire, will be our speaker next month. He will be providing us with some thoughts on how we, as consumers, can take advantage of the recent changes in energy costs to both save money and reduce our carbon emissions, through the use of energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Submitted: Tom Flynn, Secretary