

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNTRY SQUIRES

Minutes for the meeting of November 9th, 2023

Garry Keane called the meeting to order. In the absence of Lou Botta, Garry provided the Words of Inspiration. Garry gave a stirring recital of John Greenleaf Whittier's Don't Quit which was met by great approval by the attendees.

Lunch of Meatloaf was generally met with many compliments by the diners.

October Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously as submitted.

A volunteer for the Words of Inspiration is still needed for December. Please contact Garry or Art if you can present.

REMINDER !! Annual DUES are DUE !!

No guests were present

New Members Approved:

Marty Cetron was introduced by Bill Matson
Vahan Sarkisian was introduced by Gerry Coogan
Both gentlemen were approved by the assembled members.

Richard Beffa provided an update on the Country Squires financial status:

Summary of Financial Position

Cash Opening Balance @5/31/23	\$5,974
Net Income for 5 months as of 10/31/23	\$1,236

Cash ending balance @ 10/31/23	<u>\$7,210</u>
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Meeting Income	\$5,986
Dues Income	\$1,540

Total Income	<u>\$7,526</u>
Less: Total Expenses	\$6,290

Net Income	<u>\$1,236</u>
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64 Members OWE dues thru 11/8/23 of whom 21 have not attended meetings this year or last.

Per Richard Beffa Treasurer

Garry Keane introduced our speaker Bobby Farlice-Rubino. Bobby is from the Northeast Kingdom in Vermont and associated with the Fairbanks Museum in St Johnsbury, VT. Bobby's topic was the history and traditions of the Abenaki tribe which had traditionally settled in Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. His excellent presentation included many slides and artifacts depicting the territories of their nation and seven of its prominent tribe members. Abenakis were known as the People of the Dawnland which reflected their territory east of Lake Champlain including the three afore mentioned states and parts of Quebec. Many towns in this region still have Abenaki names. The French explorer Champlain developed a close relationship with the tribe and assisted them in a 1609 battle with the Mohawks. The French connection is the reason that many Abenakis adopted the Catholic faith. The Abenakis, unlike other tribes were not nomadic, but had an agricultural economy that developed around farming communities. However, the arrival of white settlers in the 17th century brought disease that ravaged the Abenakis who had little resistance to smallpox. The encroachment of the settlers led to increased conflicts with Abenakis. In the early part of the 20th century many Abenakis hid their heritage and racial background in reaction to the Eugenics movement in the Roosevelt-

Wilson period. Despite this the Abenakis survive and thousands live in Vermont today. Bobby's presentation was excellent and greeted with great appreciation by the assembled members.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:10 PM

Submitted by: Tom Flynn, Secretary