

To All Members of the Country Squires

Minutes for the Meeting of October 12th, 2023

Art Scutro, VP, called the meeting to order in the absence of Garry Keane.

Memorial Sentiments for deceased members Gus Seamans and George Sutherland were offered by Steve Seamans and Joe Watts, respectively,

and a moment of Silence was observed as well for the victims of terrorism in Israel.

Words of Inspiration were offered by Noel Weinstein that closed with a "Shalom" salute by all.

The lunch of eggplant parmesan was roundly praised.

Minutes of the September Meeting were approved as submitted.

We need volunteers for the Words of Inspiration for November and December....please contact Garry Keane or Art Scutro.

Dave Wood introduced his guest Marty Cetron, who was pleased to join us.

Dave Wood introduced out speaker, John Lyons of Newbury

John gave a presentation on the Bradford to Newbury rail section of the Concord to Claremont Railroad. The opening of the Erie Canal in

1825 had a very adverse on Boston as a commercial center for trade with the west and made New York a commercial powerhouse. This motivated commercial interests in New England to promote the building a railroad system through New Hampshire and Vermont, beginning in 1850 to increase commerce with Canada. The Bradford to Newbury section began in 1870 and utilized steam drills and explosives to cut through the hills and dales to complete the rail connection ultimately to Claremont with rail service in 1872. The completion of the rail line brought the tourist industry to Newbury and Lake Sunapee in the 1870s and saw the building of hotels/resorts in the area. Steamboat service came to the lake as a part of the tourist boom. John Hay who was Theodore Roosevelt's Secretary of State built a magnificent summer house on the Lake which hosted Roosevelt. However, the advent of motorcar and air travel in the 1940s and 50s brought an end to the use of the train line which closed in 1964. Today what is left of the right-of-way is used by hikers and climbers. John's lecture was very much appreciated by the members present.

Next meeting will have Bobby Rubino to speak on the Abenaki Indians