

Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Dance Society

Minutes of the Executive Committee

April 29, 2015

Present: Betty Allen, John Crabtree, Kat Dutton, Susan Haines, Merrill Henderson, Bob Littlehale, Jeremy Thorpe

Absent: Dale Birdsall, Alex Hall, Linda McJannet

Guest: Cathy Crabtree

1. Minutes from the March 25, 2015 were accepted after a discussion to clarify what was implied by the Pinewoods deposits in the Treasurer's report.
2. Treasurer's Report (Bob) – The Main Checking account is at \$19,211.07 and the Lloyds account is at \$1,576.08 for a total of \$20,787.15. The initial figures from the Highland Ball show a loss of \$754. In comparing this to last year's profit of \$970, this is a change of \$1724 and 35 fewer people.

The insurance has been paid - \$2080 for excess liability and \$1014 for commercial liability. The second deposit of \$7859 to Pinewoods camp for Scottish Sessions has been paid. We will split the third deposit with CDS. The opening of Pinewoods Camp to new groups may be affecting the timeliness of making deposits and so the official payment dates were changed to one month earlier. Judy Savage apologized for the way the situation was handled with the Branch.

3. Reports from Liaisons –
 - a) Fall Concert (John) – Bob will be making the deposit for the hall for the Concert.
 - b) Highland Ball (Bob) – Bob will provide a detailed report at the next meeting. Emily Peterson and Laurie Somario have agreed to be the co-chairs for next year's Ball. The deposit will be sent to reserve the hall for next year for the second weekend in May.
 - c) ESC and Pinewoods Program Provider Meeting (Jeremy) – From the Pinewoods Program Provider Meeting, Jeremy reported that Pinewoods will have open sessions in the Fall and Spring that will provide some opportunities that we may want to consider. The sessions will have no attendance requirements (perhaps 40 to 50 people) and the group would do its own cooking, so it might be possible for a small dance or a fiddle session or anything else along those lines.
For ESC, plans are progressing. The committee had budgeted for 115 participants and already have 107 registrants.

- d) Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (Linda) – Both sessions are sold out with wait lists. The theme information (“Into the Woods”) and evening programs have been posted on the Branch website.
- e) New Hampshire Highlands (Susan) – A piper has been hired for the morning wake-ups and a grand stroll on Saturday evening. The contracts will go out in early May and the fliers are out and about. Please spread the word to everyone you know! Maybe there should be a rides coordinator included.
- f) New Hampshire Highland Games (Merrill) – Nothing to report at this time.
- g) Teaching and Music Committee (Betty) - The Candidate Class examination weekend will begin on Friday (May 1) evening with a potluck at the Crabtree’s, and Exec. is invited to attend. In addition, there is a Tattoo on the Battle Green in Lexington that same evening.
- Having two event calendars, one in the *Tartan Times* and one on the website, is causing issues. Also, there have been multiple complaints concerning the distribution of the Directory via the members’ list.
- For the last edition of the *Tartan Times*, there was no paper copy mailed. Kat will check with Peter Tandy to see if the labels were printed.
- The TMC is putting together information packets for the Candidates.
- Jeanetta McColl is retiring from teaching. Her last class will be on June 12th, and everyone is encouraged to attend and join in celebrating with her.
- h) *Tartan Times* (Kat) – Work on the May/June edition is occurring at this time.
- i) Demonstration Team (Alex) – The team recently performed at NEFFA with no issues to report.
- j) Membership (Dale) – MaryEllen and John Scannell report that they have once again been locked out of the HQ site.
- k) Nominating Committee (Dale) – The slate of candidates for the upcoming Annual General Meeting is set.
- l) Website and Publicity (Kat) – Kat will be working on the Branch Facebook site.
- m) Bookstore (Merrill) – Nothing to report at this time.
- n) SDCEA (Bob) – Five people have applied for scholarships to Pinewoods and other are encouraged to apply.
- o) Class Liaisons –
- Brunswick, ME and Kennebunk, ME (Merrill) – Both classes are status quo. In addition, the Brunswick Class Demonstration Team will perform in Portsmouth, NH on June 13th.
 - Greenland, NH (Merrill) – The class has not met since the 18th Century Dance in November.
 - Chelmsford, MA (John) – There were 18 in attendance this month with Susie Long teaching and John Chambers providing music.

- Fairlee, VT (Dale) – Gary Apfel would like to remind everyone that their dance is on Saturday May 2nd.
- Brookline, MA (Kat) – The class will hold a Party on May 17th with Heather Day and Charles Liu leading the dancing and Jerome Fung and Nora Smith providing music.

4. Old Business –

- a) Upcoming committee vacancies – The positions that need to be filled include one on the Nominating Committee and a teacher and an at-large member for the Teaching and Music Committee. Jeremy will contact the suggested persons for the TMC and Susan will ask those suggested for the Nominating Committee.
- b) Branch communications survey results – There were 83 responses to the recent survey. Many people like to receive information electronically through e-mails and/or the website with the *Tartan Times* and social media sites serving as the second tier for announcements. Is there the need for a members only section? The question remains of how many requests or notices to send per event to prevent overwhelming people. There should be a policy in place to allow for two notices to be sent per event. The first could be a save-the-date announcement, a second with the full event information, and then a third for those special circumstances.

5. New Business –

- a) AGM Scheduling – The Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday June 8 at the Canadian American Club in Watertown.
- b) Headquarters is asking for names of the Branch delegates to the AGM in Perth in November.

6. Next Meetings –

- a) May 27 – Jeremy's
- b) July 1 (changeover meeting) – Bob's