

Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Dance Society

Minutes of the Executive Committee

September 30, 2015

Members participating in this phone meeting: Andrea Aeschlimann, Janet Anderson, Dale Birdsall, Cathy Crabtree, Kat Dutton, Susan Haines, Merrill Henderson, Linda McJannet, Jeremy Thorpe

Absent: Cathy Goode

- 1. Minutes from the August 26, 2015 meeting** – The minutes were approved after correcting a misspelling in the “New Business” section.
- 2. Treasurer’s Report** (Cathy C.) – The Main Checking account is at \$48,267.28 and the Lloyds account is at \$440.49 (which Cathy is still trying to clarify) to bring the Total Current Assets to \$48,707.77. The deposit for the hall for the November Concert has been paid. Cathy’s report aligns the activities with their income and expenses to provide an easier report to understand. As a follow-up on the ESC event, all of the fees have been received, and once all monies have been paid to CDS for the direct deposit payments to Pinewoods, the profit should be between \$6000 and \$7000.
- 3. Reports from Liaisons –**
 - a) Fall Concert (November 7, 2015) (Linda) – There have been some adjustments made in the publicity, including looking at several publications where ads could be placed or information can be added to the calendar pages of local newspapers. The web site text has been finalized and online ticket sales are open. George Marsh, who does publicity for Fellswater, has placed an ad on Facebook for others to “Like and Share.” Linda will take flyers and/or postcards to the Museum for distribution. Also, there is a group touring the Museum that day and they may look into attending the Concert.
 - b) Highland Ball (May 14, 2016) (Cathy G.) – Tullochgorum was asked and has consented to be the band. Payment will be \$1500 for 5 people, and the options for a piper (Campbell Webster as drummer with a separate piper, or Cam as piper and utilize another drummer) will be left to the discretion of the co-chairs. Cathy G. has a copy of the contract to share with the co-chairs. The deposit for Memorial Hall in Melrose has been paid.
 - c) ESC (Jeremy) – Meghan Murray and Dan Blim will send a budget once the 2016 Pinewoods rates have been set. Kat Dutton has agreed to fill the space on the committee that was vacated when Stephen Thomforde moved away. The committee is considering hiring one additional musician and adding a volunteer to handle reservations. The Executive Committee would like to commend the team for turning this session around and producing something wonderful and successful!

- d) Scottish Session Pinewoods (Linda) – The co-chairs are still “digesting” this summer’s sessions but are also looking forward to next year. The Teaching and Music Committee has asked that the class schedule be examined to be able to better fit in the music class.
- e) New Hampshire Highlands (Susan) – The weekend was quite successful, but there is nothing to report because the committee has not met.
- f) New Hampshire Highland Games (Merrill) – At the last minute on the Friday of the games, a space for audience participation was located. This is always a good first step to entice people into finding a class. Flyers listing the class locations were handed out. Unfortunately, there was no space for audience participation on Saturday (something to work on for next year), but 8 to 10 people were interested in finding a class.
- g) Teaching and Music Committee (Andrea) – At the last meeting, MCs for Pinewoods were discussed and voted on and Gregor Trinkaus-Randall will be contacting them. Other discussions included the selection of a band for the Highland Ball and the possibility of conducting a class for teachers. Perhaps it could be a seminar series covering various topics such as dance, music, and designing lessons for all ages. It would allow for some open dialog amongst the Branch teachers, and maybe it could be tied to an event starting in March or May.
As an aside, Andrea has a mandatory class for the next three months, so Linda will serve a dual role as Pinewoods co-chair and Executive Committee liaison at the Teaching and Music Committee meetings held during those months.
- h) *Tartan Times* (Kat) – While Barbara was in California, Evelyn worked on the last edition. There were a few layout problems, but those were sorted out. As a reminder, not everyone receives an electronic copy of the *Tartan Times*. Those who do receive a paper copy pay an extra \$10 for their membership, but we would need to check with MaryEllen Scannell to find out the number.
- i) Demonstration Team (Kat) – Karen Sollins sent a proposed budget for the Team - \$585 to pay for the musician and parking and \$150 for costumes for the Concert. In the past, the total was \$2025 including \$1050 for rent, \$575 for professional services, and a \$200 teacher honorarium. Cathy C. will send a copy of the last budget and expenses to Karen, so approval of the budget was tabled until next month.
- j) Membership (Dale) – MaryEllen Scannell reports that as of September 30th, there are 108 Branch members and 11 associate members. There are 135 individual and 6 associate members who were members last year but have not yet rejoined. The Stonington, ME class, an extension of the Belfast class, would like to move to Blue Hill to give themselves a chance to obtain more dancers and would need insurance coverage. Exec. voted to allow them to pay the coverage but to also encourage them to grow their membership.

There are several other classes currently lacking the required number of members for inclusion as a Branch class and thus to be covered by our insurance. They all need to encourage Branch membership.

A message should be sent to the classes to remind their members to renew by the end of October.

Future discussions are needed to update the By-Laws on defining Affiliate members and the membership numbers necessary for a Branch class designation.

- k) Nominating Committee (Dale) – Nothing to report at this time.
- l) Website and Publicity (Kat) – Communication is still a problem.
- m) Bookstore (Merrill) – Nothing to report at this time.
- n) Class Liaisons –
 - Greenland, NH (Merrill) – Classes start on Tuesday October 6. Laurie Stevens will teach but prefers not to be involved with the administrative tasks, so Merrill will fulfill that role until someone who attends regularly is able to take over. Merrill has posted the class in the local papers and their online presences.
 - Brunswick, ME (Merrill) – Please remember their Fall Party with a potluck at 5:45 PM and dancing starting at 7 PM. Music will be provided by Terry Traub and Catherine Miller.
 - Kennebunkport, ME (Merrill) – The class started its season a couple of weeks ago. There have been several new dancers, and one who danced with the class in the past and who most likely will continue to attend.
 - Montpelier, VT (Dale) – They have had a couple of sessions with 2 sets and are just hoping the people will keep attending.
 - Fairlee, VT (Dale) – The Fairlee Autumn Social will be held on Saturday October 24 starting at 2PM, and the information is posted on the web site. Music will be provided by Terry Traub, Catherine Miller, and Cam Webster. Exec. approved the request for a music subsidy of \$365 for the Autumn Social.
 - Albany, NY (Dale) – The Fall Frolic will be held October 31 to November 1 in collaboration with a Friday night Contra Dance and a Sunday night English Country Dance. Frost and Fire will be providing music for all of the dances. Dale Birdsall will be leading two dance workshops on Saturday. Lois New reports that she needs an insurance coverage certificate for this event. Lois also is requesting a music subsidy. Exec approved the subsidy which will be \$365 for 4 band members.
 - Salem, MA (Andrea) – There will be live music at the October 22 class. Plans are well underway for the Pinewoods Benefit Ball, and there will be a Book 49 Workshop in the afternoon of the Ball.

- Newton, MA (Cathy C.) – They have been meeting with 10 to 12 dancers, including a new recruit.
- Chelmsford, MA (Cathy C.) – The September 4 class was rather sparse, probably due to the Labor Day weekend. They meet on the first Friday of the month and are hoping that the October 2 class will have better attendance. They need support for the newer dancers so they won't get discouraged.
- Stow, MA (Kat) – Exec. approved the request for a music subsidy of \$265 for their November party.
- Cambridge, MA (Kat) – The class is doing just fine. They will be hosting the SAGM on November 9 and holding their Holiday Party on December 21.
- Brookline, MA (Kat) – The class opened for the season on September 13 and on October 4 will hold their 40th Anniversary Celebration. There were discussions concerning the direct link to only the Cambridge Class from the class listing and not to the other classes. Information could be sent to the webmasters for a subpage to the individual classes.

4. Old Business – None at this time.

5. New Business –

- a) Tax status – Our current tax status is as a 501c7. If the status were changed to a 501c3, we could accept contributions. Some expenses may be incurred to make this change, but as a non-profit, contributors could then claim their contributions on their tax returns. Cathy C. will consult with Patti Tillotson who recently complete the change in tax status for the St. Andrew's Society of Maine to a 501c3.
- b) By-Laws – Exec. needs to update and make them current to reflect our current state.

6. Next Meeting –

- a) ? October 24 or October 28
- b) ? December 6 at Andrea's at 1PM