

Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Dance Society

Minutes of the Executive Committee

January 4, 2017 (December 2016 meeting)

Present: Janet Anderson, Sue Chari, Cathy Crabtree, Cathy Goode, Susan Haines, Merrill Henderson Jeffrey Hopper, Linda McJannet, Jeremy Thorpe

Absent: Andrea Aeschlimann

Guest: Kat Dutton, Ross Parker

- 1. Minutes from the November 30, 2016 meeting** – The minutes were approved as submitted.
- 2. Treasurer's Report** (Cathy C.) – Cathy reports that the total Branch assets are \$34,790.52, down from last month after having paid membership dues to Headquarters yet a couple of thousand dollars over this time last year. Recent expenses include music subsidies approved for the Nashua and Brookline parties. Registration for Pinewoods will be opening soon, and payments for Pinewoods will be due in April, May, and June.
- 3. Reports from Liaisons –**
 - a) Fall Concert (November 11, 2017) (Janet) – Contracts with Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas have been signed, and verbal contracts have occurred for the other components, such as sound, lighting, and the venue. There is still the need for an artistic director and a producer/publicity person.
 - b) Highland Ball (May 2017) (Cathy C.) – The flyer has been designed and published in the *Tartan Times* along with the application. Discussions and shortlisting for the 2018 band occurred. Cathy C. will be checking with the hall for open dates for 2018. We would prefer May 5th is possible.
 - c) ESCape (July 3-7, 2017) (Cathy C.) – Kat Dutton presented the 2017 proposed budget, which is quite similar to the 2016 budget. One change is to increase the pay for the sound people from \$160 to \$300. The totals may need to be altered once the PCI fees are set, and the fees may increase by \$5. The total number of teachers will be decreased from 3 to 2.5 positions due to the fact that it is more difficult to organize the American contra classes. Also, an on-line payment fee (a non-refundable credit card fee or convenience fee) needs to be considered.
The budget was approved.
 - d) Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (July 7-15, 2017) (Linda) – Ross Parker presented the proposed 2017 budget. The PCI fees have increase 1.5% from 2016 to \$52.00. Two teachers have already pre-purchased their airline tickets, so travel fees for those two are already known. The teaching budget

includes six Potpourri classes plus two crew classes, both utilizing camper teachers. The musician pay is up slightly, but Susie Petrov has declined receiving the director's fee and there are no paid camper musicians this year. With this projected budget, the income from Session I would be just slightly above that of Session II. Applications and payment will be available on-line with a credit card fee, but payment with checks will also be accepted. The budget was approved.

- e) New Hampshire Highlands (August 25-27, 2017) (Susan) – Terry Traub will be the music director, and Kathy Giacoletti and Charles Liu will be two of the teachers. Invitations are still being sent for the third teacher.
- f) New Hampshire Highland Games (September 15-17, 2017) (Merrill) – Nothing to report at this time.
- g) Teaching and Music Committee (Janet) – Charles Liu has some materials for teaching children and is willing to share them with Ted Randolph from the Great Barrington class. Regrettably, the *Pinewoods Reel* is not eligible for publication in RSCDS Book 52 because guidelines state that the contributor must be alive.
- h) *Tartan Times* (Susan) – The editors have expressed concerns about the need to have a policy in place concerning not publishing the names of foreign teachers and musicians. Event organizers are usually cognizant of using generic terms and not always using names. Exec is hesitant to put such a policy in place but would advise the editors to check with the event organizer(s) as to if they had discussed publicizing names with the foreign guests before any documents are made public. The editors are also concerned that event information is not consistently being updated on the Branch calendar. Jeffrey is working on a document that will address this concern.
- i) Demonstration Team (Linda) – The team is preparing for two upcoming gigs. It is a small team, perhaps because people are waiting for an invitation to join instead of volunteering to join the team. Linda will share with Laura and Andy that a recruiting message should be sent to the membership.
- j) Membership (Andrea) – No report.
- k) Nominating Committee (Andrea) – No report.
- l) Website (Jeffrey) – The webmasters are not consistently receiving dates for upcoming events and need information for the Highland Ball.
- m) Publicity (Linda) - The Branch is in need of a publicity person. Linda has composed a letter that will be sent to the membership in hopes that someone will be willing to take on that role.
- n) Bookstore (Merrill) – The Bookstore managers would like to have more copies of *Yankee Sampler* and *Celebrate 50* printed. They know of a printer

who can do the job. Exec would like to know how many copies they plan to have printed and the cost for this job.

o) Class Liaisons -

- Fairlee, VT (Jeffrey) – The class is averaging 14 to 15 dancers per week, and several of them traveled to Nashua for the New Year’s Dance.
- Kennebunk, ME (Merrill) – The hall has been reserved for the DownEast Fling scheduled for June 10, 2017.
- Great Barrington, MA (Cathy G.) – Ted Randolph has a group of home-schooled students and could benefit from any resources geared toward teaching children. The class is also looking for publicity information.
- Northampton, MA (Cathy G.) – They had a slightly smaller group at their New Year’s Dance. The class continues to meet on Thursdays at the new location in Florence.
- Cambridge, MA (Sue) – The class met for three Mondays in December, including a very successful Holiday party.
- Newton, MA (Sue) – The last class contained five couples, and Heather Day has a very enthusiastic seniors group from Bedford.
- Brookline, MA (Sue) – The class is small, with only 11 people attending the Christmas Party. Their annual Twelfth Night Party is scheduled for January 8, 2017. This class also needs help with publicity.
- Chelmsford, MA (Cathy C.) – The class is proud to have received a grant from the local Cultural Society. They had a small class in December but are hoping for more people at the January 6th class. They are also looking for more dancers.

p) SDCEA (Janet) – The Scholarship Dance will be held on March 18, 2017 in Weston, MA. The MCs are Andrea Aeschlimann and Howard Lasnik, and music will be provided by Wisp of Thistle (Nora Smith, Catherine Miller, and Jerome Fung).

4. Old Business –

- a) The subscription to JotForm has been submitted.

5. New Business –

6. Next Meeting –

- a) January 25th – phone meeting