

Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Dance Society

Minutes of the Executive Committee

January 25, 2017

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

- 1. Minutes from the January 4, 2017 meeting** – The minutes were approved with two minor corrections.
- 2. Treasurer's Report** (Cathy C.) – Cathy reports that there have been few changes since the January 4th meeting. The online applications for Pinewoods seems to be quite successful with 41 transactions already received. Cathy does find that she is receiving e-mails from both JotForm and Square, so she's going to try setting up a separate account for this information. The total Branch assets are \$37,962.63. Jeremy has received the contract for Pinewoods Scottish Sessions but not yet for ESCape.
- 3. Reports from Liaisons –**
 - a) Fall Concert (November 11, 2017) (Janet) – Robert McOwen has agreed to be the Artistic Director and was asked to suggest someone as the Producer. Linda is willing to help with Publicity, and there were brief discussions concerning tickets and sound.
 - b) Highland Ball (May 12 – 14, 2017) (Cathy C.) – There is no new information concerning the 2017 Ball except that the online application is ready to go and will be posted soon.
Discussions then moved to the 2018 Ball. The Hall is booked for the first weekend in May, and the second weekend is Mother's Day, so that leaves the third weekend for the Ball. Susan will contact the proposed band to find out if they are available and willing to play. Also, because that would traditionally have been the weekend for the Fairlee Spring Fling, Jeffrey will speak with Gary Apfel.
 - c) ESCape (July 3 – 7, 2017) (Cathy C.) – Cathy C. will check with Meghan Murray to find out if she has received the Pinewoods contract and to ask if she and her committee were aware that they could use JotForm for online applications and payments.
 - d) Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (July 7 – 15, 2017) (Linda) – Linda reports that Laura DeCesare makes regular announcements at the Cambridge Class, and the online registrations seems to be working well. One teacher had to withdraw, but a replacement has been found.
One item of discussion was the fact that the old paper registration asked if

the registrant wanted to make a donation. With the online payment, we would need to be the agent, and because of our status, we cannot fundraise. The best thing to do would be to provide a link to the SDCEA on the website.

- e) New Hampshire Highlands (August 25 – 27, 2017) (Susan) – The contract with St. Methodios Faith and Heritage Center has been signed, and the deposit has been paid.
- f) New Hampshire Highland Games (September 15 – 17, 2017) (Merrill) – There is nothing to report at this time.
- g) Teaching and Music Committee (Janet) – The committee has been working on the details for Pinewoods 2017, particularly the class descriptions. They are also considering possible teachers for Pinewoods 2018.
In discussing whether to have a written policy for publicizing or not publicizing the names of guest teachers and musicians both foreign and in country, the committee was hesitant to have anything specific in writing.
- h) *Tartan Times* (Susan) – Barbara McOwen and Evelyn Murray will meet in early February and then do the March *Tartan Times* in late February via e-mail because Barbara will be in California from February 15 to March 9. As for the Folk Arts Center address still appearing on the *Tartan Times*, Evelyn reports that mail is occasionally received there and then sent along to her. Therefore, she feels that there should be an address on a newsletter. Is there a problem with using the Folk Arts Center address?
- i) Demonstration Team (Linda) – The performance at the BCMFest was very successful with nice, easy, and a variety of dances. The Branch advertising postcards were placed on the audience seats. The team is also scheduled to perform on February 4th at the Ancient Universities Burns Night. The dates of the rehearsals for NEFFA have been posted, and new people will be invited to join.
- j) Membership (Andrea) – MaryEllen Scannell should be forwarding a report.
- k) Nominating Committee (Andrea) – Andrea reports that she has not been able to contact anyone. A list of roles to fill needs to be compiled for the February Exec. meeting.
- l) Website (Jeffrey) – Everything is fine except that the Highland Ball information is needed.
- m) Publicity (Linda) – Unfortunately, there have been no responses to the e-mail seeking a Publicity person for the Branch. Are there any suggestions?
- n) Bookstore (Merrill) – The Bookstore managers would like to have 25 copies each of *Yankee Sampler* and *Celebrate 50* printed, because there has been a demand for them. They will get an estimate of the cost, and Exec. will vote at the next meeting.
- o) Class Liaisons –

- Chelmsford, MA (Cathy C.) – Rebecca Gore reported that there were roughly 20 people at the last class with about 8 brand new beginners. Susie Long did a lovely job of making everyone welcome and people said they enjoyed it. She was also able to make certain that a challenged individual could participate without distracting too much from the rest of the dancers. Rebecca relayed this to the TMC, and because the Chelmsford class is in a Chelmsford town building and they are accepting Cultural Council money, they really do have an obligation to allow people to come and try out the class especially if they have disabilities.
- Cambridge, MA (Sue) – Charles Liu and Laura DeCesare were the January teachers, and Dan Wheatley and friends were the musicians. There was an informal Burns dance at the January 23rd class. February is “bring-a-friend-for-free” month.
- Newton, MA (Sue) – Everything seems to be going well.
- Brookline, MA (Sue) – The Twelfth Night party went well.
- Nashua, NH (Linda) – The New Year’s Day party went well, including finding a last-minute replacement (Barbara McOwen) when Terry Traub had a personal emergency.
- Great Barrington, MA (Cathy G.) – Ted Randolph reports that he is offering a 12-session class for youths.
- Fairlee, VT (Jeffrey) – There were no updates since the January 4th meeting.
- Burlington, VT (Jeffrey) - On Wednesday, Feb. 8th, there will be an English-Scottish social dance in Burlington from 7:30-9:30pm (lesson at 7:15). Music will be provided by Joanne Garton and Aaron Marcus and calling by Anna Rain and Connie Kent. The price is \$9-15 on a sliding scale. The location is the Champlain Club (20 Crowley St., Burlington, VT).
- Albany, NY (Jeffrey) – Lois New reports that the Albany class and their friends from Great Barrington, Binghamton, Middlebury, New Haven, and Pensacola are preparing for their demo at the Saratoga Dance Flurry, Feb 17-19. Elke Baker and Liz Donaldson will be the musicians. Lois will teach an introduction to Scottish class and emcee a Saturday evening and a Sunday afternoon dance. They also have three teenagers dancing with them which is, as Lois says, “Quite lively and fun!!!”
- Salem, MA (Andrea) – The class has been rotating several teachers during the same evening, and this has been working well. Sometimes they are fortunate to have live musicians.

- Brunswick, ME (Merrill) – Everything is going well. The tentative date for their Fall party is October 28, 2017, but they may be able to move it to Saturday after Columbus Day.
- Kennebunk, ME (Merrill) – Nothing to report at this time.
- Greenland, NH (Merrill) – Due to bad weather, there was no class for the last two Tuesdays.
- Stow, MA (Merrill) – The class is moving right along and preparing for the Scholarship Dance on March 18, 2017.

4. Old Business – None.

5. New Business – None.

6. Next Meeting –

- a) Wednesday March 1 at Cathy Crabtree's at 7:15 PM. Bring refreshments!