

Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Dance Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee

June 24, 2017

Present: Janet Anderson, Marsha Byrnes, Sue Chari, Cathy Crabtree, Sharon Gilmour, Cathy Goode, Susan Haines, Merrill Henderson, Jeffrey Hopper, John Salyards, Jeremy Thorpe

Guest: Kat Dutton

- 1. Introductions** – Jeremy welcomed new members Marsha Byrnes, Sharon Gilmour, and John Salyards and provided an overview of the responsibilities of the Executive Committee. These basic duties include approving budgets, approving music subsidy requests, serving as liaisons to Branch events and classes, discussing the needs of the Branch (such as a progressive beginners' class), finding people to run events and to serve on committees, having a voice concerning voting and decision-making at the HQ AGM, and executing more publicity for the Branch. These meetings are open to the public except for very rare occasions where an executive session is required.
- 2. Minutes from the May 31, 2017 meeting** – The minutes were approved as written.
- 3. Treasurer's Report** (Cathy C.) – Cathy reports that Pinewoods fees continue to come in with a large amount recently received for ESCape. Another membership fee was also just received. What is the cut-off date? This needs to be clearly delineated. The preliminary numbers from the Highland Ball show a loss of \$1369, and the hall rental fee for the November Concert has been paid. The current total assets are at \$91,767.17, a number which will decrease after Pinewoods expenses are paid. Cathy reports that as a non-profit we are required to file a 990 each year, and this has been done. She also continues work on the possibility of changing our designation from a 501(c)7 to a 501(c)3. The 501(c)7 is basically a social club and does not allow fundraising or soliciting of donations. The 501(c)3 implies education and requires filing a more rigorous tax return.
- 4. Reports from Liaisons** –
 - a) Fall Concert (November 11, 2017) (Cathy C.) – The post card will be ready for distribution at Pinewoods, and the information is posted on the Branch web site. The tickets have been approved and inquiries are coming in. Both Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas have signed their contracts, and a contract has been sent to Campbell Webster. Publicity will start going out in August, and the call for volunteers will start soon.
In thinking about possible replacements for the Concert in future years, Highland Dance Boston had a done a Ceilidh, so perhaps we could look at something similar.
 - b) Highland Ball (May 2017/2018) (Cathy C. and Kat) – As a follow-up in trying to determine why there was a 25% decrease in attendance at the 2017 Ball, Kat has sent out a survey looking for suggestions for improvements.

Previous discussions included the question of if the timing for the Ball was too close to several other parties, it is not accessible via public transportation, plus the dancing community is aging and may not be up to this much dancing or traveling to the Ball. The SDCEA is proposing to offer class discounts or group scholarships to Ball attendees.

Positive responses suggested making hospitality more available and having a hospitality coordinator, holding a dance walk-through on the afternoon of the Ball, and alternating locations between the north and the south. More classes now offer live music for their classes and parties, so live music is no longer a draw. Maybe the dinner option should be changed (it's over half of the budget). There were also some complaints about the sound, i.e. not a good mix of sound.

The Welcome Dance also had low attendance and did not attract the out-of-town people.

The date for the 2018 Ball is May 19 at the same location. The recommendation is for two people to co-chair with other people helping with specific jobs such as hospitality, publicity, and decorations, to name a few.

- c) ESCape (July 3 – 7, 2017) (Cathy C.) – There are currently 109 people registered to attend. This number would turn a small profit, but 113 would be preferred a more desirable number. The committee is ramping up and the numerous jobs are getting accomplished.
- d) Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (July 7 – 15, 2017) – As Pinewoods is fast approaching, there are 11 people still on the wait list for Session I and zero for Session II.
- e) New Hampshire Highlands (August 25 – 27, 2017) (Susan) – Everything is progressing well, but there is still room for more people to sign up.
- f) New Hampshire Highland Games (September 15 – 17, 2017) (Merrill) – Merrill will be passing along the reporting of the Games to Jeff. Currently, they are just waiting to see the schedule.
- g) Teaching and Music Committee (Janet) – Pinewoods plans are complete, but work will resume after Pinewoods.
- h) *Tartan Times* (Susan) – Travel for both Evelyn and Barbara plus various computer problems has made putting together the July/August very difficult.
- i) Demonstration Team (sent by Linda) – The subcommittee has been formed to discuss the role of the Demo Team and how to get exposure. Discussions will continue when the team resumes practice in September. One thing to consider is that there are multiple demonstration teams within the Branch.
- j) Membership (Andrea) – No report at this time.
- k) Nominating Committee (Andrea) – MaryEllen Scannell has expressed an interest in serving on the Nominating Committee, so Jeremy will officially invite her to join them (Ed Pokrass and Rose Mary Jackson).

- l) Website (Jeffrey) - There has been an issue viewing the website with Android devices. Cathy C. will sit with the webmasters to work out the problem.
 - m) Publicity – Linda McJannet may step in to help temporarily, and Janet has also offered to help.
 - n) Bookstore (Merrill) – No report at this time.
 - o) Class Liaisons – Most classes are off for the summer.
 - Newton, MA (Sue) – The class will be off for 3 weeks and then resume.
 - Cambridge, MA (Sue) – The class will be off for the weeks of Pinewoods and then will resume.
 - Chelmsford, MA (John) – The Chelmsford Class Party will be held on Saturday August 12 with music by Dan Wheatley and friends. The theme for the dances is Trips and Transportation.
 - Northampton, MA (Cathy G.) – The class had a great end-of-season party which served as the send-off for Kent and Marian Smith. The class is now off for the summer.
5. Old Business –
- a) Nominating Committee nomination – discussed above.
6. New Business –
- a) Liaison assignments – see attached
7. Next meeting –
- a) August 30

Liaisons and officers for 2017-2018

Officers

President: Jeremy
VP: Marsha
Treasurer: Cathy C.
Secretary: Susan

Liaisons

Fall Concert: Cathy C.
Highland Ball: Cathy C.
ESCAPE: Sharon
Scottish Sessions Pinewoods: Jeremy
NH Highlands: Susan
NH Highland Games: Jeff
TMC: Janet/Marsha
Tartan Times: Susan
Demo team: Marsha
Membership: Cathy G.
Nominating Committee: Marsha
Website: Jeff
Publicity: Janet
Bookstore: Cathy C.
SDCEA: Janet
Equipment: Jeff
Archives: Susan
Calendar: Jeremy

Class liaisons

Cambridge, MA: Sue
Brookline, MA: Sue
Stow, MA: Sharon
Newton, MA: Sue
Chelmsford, MA: John
Great Barrington, MA: Cathy G.
Northampton, MA: Cathy G.
Salem, MA: Cathy G.
Greenland, NH: John
Nashua, NH: John
Belfast, ME: John
Brunswick, ME: John
Kennebunk, ME: John
Fairlee, VT: Jeff
Montpelier, VT: Jeff
Burlington, VT: Jeff
Albany, NY: Jeff