

Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Dance Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee
October 25, 2017

Present - Phone meeting: Janet Anderson, Marsha Byrnes, Sue Chari, Cathy Crabtree, Sharon Gilmour, Cathy Goode, Susan Haines, Jeffrey Hopper, Jeremy Thorpe

Absent: John Salyards

- 1. Minutes from the September 27, 2017 meeting** – The minutes were accepted with a revised wording concerning the Highland Ball budget.
- 2. Treasurer's Report** (Cathy C.) – Cathy reports that at the close of the fiscal year (September 30th) the Branch finances were comparative to those of last year with the current total liabilities and assets at \$44,369.61. A couple of prepaid expenses for the 2017-2018 year were paid in August and September, namely the deposits for the Highland Ball and the November Concert. ESCape turned a small profit, so half of this sum will be sent to CDSS this week. The prepaid revenue includes \$6098 for memberships, and the sales tax is for Bookstore items sold in Massachusetts. The Statement of Activities provides detailed financial information on the events of the past year. Of note is the fact that the Administrative fees are higher due to approximately \$1000 in fees for using Square for online payments, plus the true cost of the Highland Ball would be higher if not for the number of donations.
- 3. Reports from Liaisons –**
 - a) Fall Concert (November 11, 2017) (Cathy C.) – Cathy reports that the volunteers are all set, and the MC and musicians for the dancing are ready. Ticket sales are continuing but are not yet at the breakeven mark. More local advertising is occurring, the Boston Scottish Country Dancers are working hard, and the shortbread has been ordered.
 - b) Equipment (Jeffrey) - The Branch has several pieces of non-functioning sound equipment. Peter Tandy is in the process of making notes and lists on the equipment. Jeff has offered to help with transporting and clearing out equipment for the Teaching and Music Committee to look at to determine its worth. At the same time, Exec is waiting to hear from Carl Mastandrea as to what sound equipment was approved at the Pinewoods budget meeting.
 - c) Highland Ball (May 19, 2018) (Cathy C.) – The Highland Ball organization team is in place (Cathy Fahey, Kat Dutton, and Stephen and Val Thomforde) and will be meeting on October 28. Exec agreed that the fee for the band will be \$1650 (including travel) for 4 musicians plus \$100 to \$150 separate for a piper. The band can find/bring their own piper, or a more local piper could be invited. The contract for the hall has been signed and the deposit paid.
 - d) ESCape (July 2 – 6, 2018) (Sharon) – Nothing to report at this time.

- e) Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (July 8 – 14, 2018) (Cathy/Jeremy) – The advertising postcards are almost ready for printing. Ross and Laura will present the budget at the December (to be held in early January) Exec meeting. One airfare has already been reimbursed because the person was able to get a good deal on their ticket. This person will pay the Branch back if they are unable to fulfill their commitment.
- f) New Hampshire Highlands (August 24 – 26, 2018) (Susan) – The committee is looking for teachers and a music director.
- g) New Hampshire Highland Games (September 2018) (Jeffrey) – Nothing to report at this time.
- h) Teaching and Music Committee (Janet) – For Pinewoods 2018, the evening MCs have been scheduled and will submit their programs by December. The class schedule will remain basically the same as for 2017. The committee will discuss teachers' salaries in January.
For Pinewoods 2019, the committee is talking about teachers and a music director.
The committee is also drafting the program for the Highland Ball.
- i) *Tartan Times* (Susan) – Evelyn and Barbara have the November/December edition ready to be sent.
- j) Boston Scottish Country Dancers (Marsha) – The team will expand its schedule and will draw from the larger group to have enough dancers for particular events. The aim with the proposed new model is not to create an advanced class for the Branch but to have a more polished performance group. The performance team should have 8 people who are willing to meet more often (16 rehearsals at \$40 each and the dancers will be charged). This process was moved by Jeremy, seconded by Sharon, and approved by Exec. With the upcoming Concert, the team will probably not have a discussion until afterward. Talks concerning recruiting will occur later.
- k) Membership (Cathy G.) – There are currently 164 Branch members and 17 associate members. Nearly all the members and associates have requested electronic correspondence. To date, 82 individuals and 8 associates who were members last year have not renewed.
- l) Nominating Committee (Marsha) – The positions that will need to be filled this year include President, Secretary, and two members-at-large.
- m) Website (Jeffrey) – The webmasters report that things are running smoothly.
- n) Publicity (Janet) – The current publicity focus is on the Concert, i.e. online sites, newspapers, and out to the membership.
- o) Bookstore (Cathy C.) – The Bookstore reports brisk sales at Scottish Sessions Pinewoods. They were also at the recent Brunswick party and hope to be at the Pinewoods Benefit Ball.

- p) Class Liaisons –
- Cambridge, MA (Sue) – Laura DeCesare has been teaching the experienced social and Charles Liu the basic class, and music has been by Tom Pixton and friends. The October 30th class will have a Halloween theme with a double social hour. On note is the fact that some of the older dancers are no longer attending.
 - Brookline, MA (Sue) – The class has been welcoming dancers from other classes. The October 29th class will have a spooky-but-not-scary theme. The Christmas Party is scheduled for December 17th with Suzie Long. The Annual Twelfth Night Party will be held on January 7th with a snow date of January 14th.
 - Fairlee, VT (Jeffrey) – The class had a good turn out at their recent party, and Cathy C. was able to obtain insurance coverage for them in their new location.
 - Albany, NY (Jeffrey) – The Fall Frolic will be held on October 28th.
 - Northampton, MA (Cathy G.) – The class is small and struggles to get 8 dancers. They are planning for their New Year's Day Party. Ilene Goldstein and Virginia Van Scoy have been helping Karen Lavallee-Tente with the teaching.
 - Great Barrington, MA (Cathy G.) – Ted Randolph reported that he is teaching a class of 20 – 24 home-schooled children and their parents twice a month. He points out that the home-schooled children are a good resource for future dancers.
 - Salem, MA (Cathy G.) – The class has been campaigning for new dancers. Their Halloween Party is scheduled for October 19th and the Pinewoods Benefit Ball will be held on December 9th.
4. Old Business –
- a) Beginners' Class – Cathy C. was able to get some straightforward answers concerning adult education programs from the people in Lexington. The winter deadline is October 31 to be listed in the spring catalog. Cathy C. will respond to them, but a teacher willing to do this is still needed.
 - b) SAGM – The meeting will be held on November 6th.
5. New Business –
- a) The Annual report to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is due on November 1st. Jeffrey will be listed as the director. The filing fee is \$15.
 - b) The SDCEA Scholarship Dance will be held on March 24, 2018.
6. Next Meeting
- a) November 29 at Cathy Crabtree's at 7:15 PM