

Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Dance Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee
September 26, 2018

Phone meeting: Sue Chari, Cathy Crabtree, Karen Gansz, Sharon Gilmour, Susan Haines, Jeffrey Hopper, John Salyards, Jeremy Thorpe

Absent: Marsha Byrnes and Winifred McGowan

- 1. Minutes from the August 29, 2018 meeting** – The minutes were approved with one correction. In the Class Liaisons section for the Cambridge Class, the last line should say “the season pass,” not “the student pass.”
- 2. Treasurer’s Report** (Cathy) – Cathy reports that the total liabilities and net assets stand at \$54, 493, more robust than last year due to a successful Fall Concert and great Pinewoods sessions. The tallies from ESCape and Pinewoods Scottish Sessions are nearly complete (waiting for final details from the chairs). Scottish Sessions should clear just over \$6000, due in part to great attendance, one teacher returning their honorarium and travel money, and the generosity and stewardship of the party planners. The final figures from ESCape have not been received, but a profit of about \$1400 is expected (to be shared with CDS). CDS also had contributed monies totaling \$691 from three funds toward this year’s ESCape. The increase in administrative expenses for the fiscal year is due to more on-line event payments which increases the fees for using Square.
- 3. New Business –**
 - a) Policies and Procedures Review – The Policies and Procedures do not require a vote of the membership and can be updated by Exec. They have not been revised since 2013, so they need to reflect changes and current practices, i.e. to add the event runners guide and harassment policy, develop a policy for youth, and add detail to several other policies. There will be further review and discussion at the next meeting.
 - b) SAGM – The SAGM will be held on Monday November 5, 2018. Jeremy will share this information with the Cambridge Class.
- 4. Old Business –**
 - a) By-Laws Review and Revisions – Those revisions that had been previously discussed were reviewed and a couple of additional changes were made. Susan will send the changes and rationale for changes to Exec and Charles Liu of the Teaching and Music Committee for final review before sending them to the membership prior to the SAGM vote.
 - b) Youth Membership Policy – Jeremy, John, and Jeff will work on a draft for discussion at the next Exec meeting.
- 5. Reports from Liaisons –**

- a) Joint Ceilidh (November 10, 2018) (Cathy) – Jeff reported that a grant of \$1000 was received from NHScots. Thank you, Jeff, for your hard work in preparing the application which made this happen. A report will need to be sent to NHScots after the event.
Postcards and flyers for the Ceilidh were handed out at the New Hampshire Highland Games, and people from several large dance and music organizations are willing to distribute the information to their members. Linda McJannet has sent 1100 postcards, and ticket sales have been occurring on-line (after problems with the QR code were resolved). Volunteers for items such as tickets, set-up, snacks and decorations will be solicited with the added incentive of a half or full comp ticket. The Boston Scottish Country Dancers are also working on their program.
- b) Highland Ball (May 11, 2019) (Cathy) – Despite many inquiries, there are still no chairs in place for this event. Dave Wiesler, David Knight, and probably two other musicians will be the musicians. Cathy will contact the caterers to make sure our event is on their calendar.
- c) ESCape (July 2-6, 2018) (Sharon) – Nothing to report at this time.
- d) Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (July 6-14, 2018)(Jeremy) – The chairs have been informed that Exec is working on developing a policy for youth dancers.
- e) New Hampshire Highlands (August 24-26, 2018)(Susan) – Roberta Lasnik reports that they had a full camp. The teachers were Martha Kent, Lance Ramshaw, and Jen Schoonover. Terry Traub was the band leader with Elke Baker and Elizabeth Anderson on fiddle, Ben Anderson on cello, Dan Emery on pipes, and Howard Lasnik on drums. The staff brought a total of six children, and Ben Anderson was gracious enough to step in and take over the Life Guard duties.
The NHH Committee is starting to discuss NHH 2019.
- f) Loon Mountain Games (September 21-23, 2018)(Jeff) – Jeff reports that there were 32 participants each day for dancing. He noted that there were inquiries for a class in central New Hampshire. He also would like to thank everyone who helped with manning the table.
- g) Teaching and Music Committee (Marsha) – As changes/updates are made to the By-Laws, the TMC would like to be included for those areas that involve them.
- h) *Tartan Times* (Susan) – No report at this time.
- i) Boston Scottish Country Dancers (Marsha) – No report at this time.
- j) Membership (Susan) – No report at this time, but, from the treasury perspective, membership seems to be in line with last year.

- k) Nominating Committee (Marsha) – There have been no responses yet for filling the vacant position.
- l) Website (Jeff) – The web masters have removed some clutter from the site and corrected the contact information. The information for the Fall Ceilidh has been added plus dates for several events were added to the face page, and the list of dances taught at Pinewoods Scottish Sessions have been posted.
- m) Bookstore (Cathy) – Dawn and Mike Little report that the Bookstore is well-stocked with Book 52 and its CD. They also had a donation of gently used books. The Bookstore will be at the Brunswick Party on October 13. The Bookstore has also received 78 CDs of “Live at C#” that MaryEllen Scannell had acquired as a fundraiser and had been storing. MaryEllen has asked for reimbursement.
- n) Class Liaisons –
 - Newton, MA (Sue) – After breaking for the summer, classes have resumed. They average one set per week. They also did a demonstration for Bedford Day.
 - Brookline, MA (Sue) – Flo Hearn is teaching this small class. They are in need of publicity.
 - Stow, MA (Sharon) – The group held a small party in August and will be starting their regular season on the 2nd and 4th Fridays.
 - Greenland, NH (John) – The class met on September 25 with 10 dancers, including a new dancer.
 - Kennebunk, ME (John) – The class met on September 9 and had 2 new couples.
 - Brunswick, ME (John) – The group held a dance and performed a demonstration at the Maine Games. Their Fall Party is scheduled for October 13.
 - Chelmsford, MA (John) – In thinking about the youth policy, of note is the fact that Chelmsford has a no drop-off policy in regard to children.
 - Burlington, VT (Karen) – Connie Kent reports that the Burlington class is going well! She recently finished a three-week beginner series and got a handful of new people through meetup. She is planning to continue with the same group in October.
 - Fairlee, VT (Karen) – Gary Apfel reports that nine members of the Fairlee Class attended New Hampshire Highlands last month constituting approximately 10% of the total number of attendees. Everyone had a good time, and some learned a lot as well. They were particularly appreciative of the efforts made to accommodate

their hearing-impaired dancer, who especially benefited from the weekend's activities and left feeling very energized.

Class attendance continues to be around fourteen to sixteen dancers most weeks at their Wednesday night class.

The Fairlee Autumn Social will take place on October 20. Laura Risk and Nicholas Williams will cross the border from Canada to join Joanne Garton as the band. They hope many will be able to join them in the newly refurbished Fairlee Town Hall.

The next event on the Fairlee agenda will be a winter workshop, sponsored by TMC. The date has not yet been set but will be sometime in January or February. Meanwhile, they look forward to traveling to the Northampton social in November and the Pinewoods Benefit Ball in December.

6. Next Meetings -

- a) October 24 at 7:15 PM at Sharon Gilmour's in Arlington
- b) November 28 at 7:15 PM - location TBD