

Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Dance Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee
October 24, 2018

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

Absent: Marsha Byrnes

- 1. Minutes from the September 26, 2018 meeting** – The minutes were approved with the deletion of the last phrase under Scottish Sessions Pinewoods and the Bookstore.
- 2. Treasurer's Report (Cathy)** – Cathy reports that the total liabilities and net assets stand at \$57,642.78, higher than last year and with membership fees in the bank, not yet paid to HQ. The Statement of Activities reports the highlights of the past year and will be presented at the upcoming SAGM. These highlights include –
 - Highland Ball – lower ticket prices and increased numbers resulting in just a \$13 loss, expenses included the fee for having the piano tuned and the professional services fees for the piper and the vocalist
 - Fall Concert 2017 – successful event with Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas
 - Administrative expenses – includes the price for wristbands and advertising at the Maine and New Hampshire Highland GamesExec approved reimbursing MaryEllen Scannell for the “Live at C#” CDs that will be sold through the Bookstore.
- 3. New Business** –
 - a) Delegates to HQ AGM – No Branch members will be physically attending the upcoming HQ AGM. Proxy votes for the Education & Training Committee Convenor Elect and for the Education & Training Committee were completed by Jeremy, John, Jeff, Sharon, and Sue, and Susan will scan and forward them to HQ.
- 4. Old Business** -
 - a) SAGM duties – The SAGM of the Boston Branch will be held on Monday November 5th at the Canadian-American Club in Watertown. Exec is responsible for setting up and providing snack foods.
 - b) Youth Policy – Jeremy, Jeff, and John have taken information from the HQ document and the San Francisco Branch policy concerning conduct with youth dancers and created a draft entitled “Guidelines for Children Dancing with the Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.” The guidelines will protect both youth and vulnerable adults, and the title should be corrected to include the term “vulnerable adults.” A member of the Exec will need to be designated as the Youth Coordinator to receive reports and to be prepared to take action if an incident should occur. Exec will re-affirm

these guidelines each year and suggest that all Branch teachers review them annually. One major highlight is that any children attending branch classes or events must be accompanied by a parent or designated guardian.

- c) Policies and Procedures review – this item was tabled to the next meeting. All liaisons are asked to check with their contacts concerning what they do and their responsibilities.

5. Reports from Liaisons –

- a) Joint Ceilidh (November 10, 2018) (Cathy) – All preparations are moving right along. Volunteers are still needed and can sign up electronically with Linda McJannet. Linda has been dealing with the details and covering the loose ends. Please continue to encourage ticket sales.
- b) Highland Ball (May 11, 2019) (Cathy) – The church in Weston has the Welcome Dance penciled in on their calendar. Cathy has left two voice mail messages for the caterer. A message is being sent out to solicit volunteers to co-chair this event. Jeremy has a verbal agreement from the musicians – Dave Wiesler, David Knight, and Dan Emery plus perhaps another fiddler. Payment to the musicians will depend on the total number of musicians. Since this meeting – MaryEllen Scannell and Susie Petrov have come forward and offered to co-chair the Ball.
- c) ESCape (July 1-5, 2019) (Sharon) – Nothing new to report. The numbers for the 2018 session need to be finalized with Meghan Murray, and the profit amount to be paid to CDS Boston Centre is around \$300.
- d) Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (July 5-13, 2019) (Jeremy) – The PCI Board recently met, but it is not yet known if there will be a rate change or what it might be. There is no other new news to report.
- e) New Hampshire Highlands (August 23-25, 2019) (Susan) – Nothing to report at this time.
- f) Loon Mountain Games (September 2019) (Jeff) – Nothing to report at this time.
- g) Teaching and Music Committee (Marsha) – A workshop will be held in January in Fairlee, VT. The cost to the Branch is approximately \$260.
- h) *Tartan Times* (Susan) – Evelyn and Barbara report that they are working on the next edition and should get it completed fairly quickly.
- i) Boston Scottish Country Dancers (Marsha) – Nothing to report at this time.
- j) Membership (Susan) – The Branch membership is currently at 175.
- k) Nominating Committee (Marsha) – The vacant seat is yet to be filled. Susan will continue to contact prospective candidates.
- l) Website (Jeff) – The webmasters have rolled over the membership for the new year. The Pinewoods Benefit Ball information has been updated, but the Who's Who still needs current information.
- m) Bookstore (Cathy) – The Bookstore has copies of the "Live at C#" CD for sale.
- n) Class Liaisons –

- Brunswick, ME (John) – The class will be back at the Topsham Grange Hall for their party next fall. A music subsidy of \$265 was approved for their recent party held in October.
- Albany, NY (John) – A music subsidy of \$365 was approved for their recent party.
- Newton, MA (Sue) – The class continues with about 10 people. They are working on a demonstration to be held in Lincoln on December 3rd at the Senior Center.
- Cambridge, MA (Sue) – Tom Pixton and his many friends have been providing music, and Susie Petrov and Lance Ramshaw have been leading the dancing.
- SDCEA (Sue) – The SCDEA will hold its annual Scholarship Dance on March 23, 2019 at the UU Church in Weston.
- Fairlee, VT (Karen) - Members of the Fairlee Class were pleased with the strong support demonstrated by fellow dancers who attended their autumn social on October 20. Fifty or so dancers enjoyed the music of Laura Risk, Nicholas Williams, and Joanne Garton.

The class is now preparing for the Northampton Tea Dance on November 10. They are anxious to support this new event and hope that others from around the Branch will do so too.

The class is working with the Teaching and Music Committee to sponsor a workshop in Fairlee on January 12 (snow date January 13). The workshop will begin at 1:30 p.m. A potluck is scheduled afterwards. More details will be available as they develop.

The class size remains constant at slightly less than two sets most Wednesday evenings.

- Salem, MA (Sharon) – The class hosted 2 new dancers at a recent class and invites Teacher Candidates to utilize their class for teaching purposes. The class is also preparing for the Pinewoods Benefit Ball on December 1st.
- Stow, MA (Sharon) – The class recently had 5 beginner dancers. Jeanetta McCall is scheduled to teach on October 28th.

6. Next Meeting -

- a) November 28 – phone meeting
- b) January 2 or 9 (December meeting) – in person – location to be announced
- c) January 30 (January meeting) – phone meeting