

Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Dance Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee
November 28, 2018

Phone meeting: Marsha Byrnes, Cathy Crabtree, Karen Gansz, Sharon Gilmour, Susan Haines, Jeffrey Hopper, Winifred McGowan, Jeremy Thorpe

Absent: Sue Chari, John Salyards

- 1. Minutes from the October 24, 2018 meeting** – The minutes were approved as submitted.
- 2. Treasurer’s Report** (Cathy) – Cathy reports that the balance is healthy due in part to the collection of Membership fees. Cathy will send a payment to HQ in the next couple of weeks and again in February for later memberships. The total liabilities and net assets stand at \$58,952.
- 3. Old Business** –
 - a. Policies and Procedures Review – The discussion concerning the Policies and Procedures continued. In addition to the “Guidelines for Children Dancing with the Boston Branch,” the “Harassment Policy,” “Participation Policy,” and the “Alcohol Policy” will be stand-alone documents published on the web site and not incorporated into the Policies and Procedures documents. Other changes discussed during this meeting include changing the name of the Fall Concert to “Fall Concert or Special Event of Scottish Music and Dance” and approval of increasing the fees for using the Branch Sound System to \$50 for a one-night event and \$100 for a weekend event. Exec members need to remember to ask their committee contacts what they do and what it means to be a member of their committee.
- 4. Reports from Liaisons** –
 - a. Joint Ceilidh (November 10, 2018) (Cathy) – The Ceilidh had good attendance and was enjoyed by everyone. Highland Dance Boston, having done the Ceilidh in the past, had an established format with the focus of being more like a party. The Boston Branch focus was more on the big picture of providing entertainment, making certain the musicians were sufficiently paid, and trying to encourage and attract dancers. A small loss was incurred by both organizations, but the grant from NHScots helped with keeping the prices low. (Jeff will be writing a final report for NHScots.) It did seem like a lot of work, and there is room for improvements. Advertising was through the mailing of postcards, some newspapers, and Facebook. There were no paid ads. Other things to consider are to possibly charge more, doing better with the food, and providing more audience participation.
 - b. Highland Ball (May 11, 2019) (Cathy) – MaryEllen Scannell and Susie Petrov are the Ball co-chairs. Cathy has passed on the information of what has been done concerning the hall rental, church rental, and contacting the caterers. The Sunday Brunch will be at Diane Lockhart’s. Cathy Fahey and Gillian Charters have been invited to join the committee. Some advertng may be

ready by New Year's Day but the budget needs to first be approved by Exec (to be reviewed at the January 9, 2019 meeting). The program has been approved by the musicians. As soon as flyers are ready, the committee will be sharing the Ball information with other Branches.

- c. ESCape (July 1-5, 2019) (Sharon) – Nothing to report at this time. Ruth Reiner, the President of Country Dance Society-Boston Centre, has reported that CDS has a policy for dances advertised or published to be traditional or as gender-free roles.
- d. Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (July 5-13, 2019) (Jeremy) – Laurie Somario is reviewing and updating the budget but needs the updated Pinewoods rates. PCI voted on the rates at their last meeting, so Jeremy will check with Bruce Mabbott for that information.
- e. New Hampshire Highlands (August 23-25, 2019) (Susan) – The committee has a phone meeting scheduled for December 2, 2018.
- f. Loon Mountain Games (September 2019) (Jeff) – Nothing to report at this time.
- g. Teaching and Music Committee (Marsha) – The committee has been discussing increasing the music budget for full-time musicians at Pinewoods from \$800 to \$900.
Scottish Sessions Pinewoods 2019 - All of the teachers are in place, and Robert McOwen is collecting the evening dance programs from the devisors. Postcards are being prepared for distribution (minus the names of overseas teachers and musicians).
Candidates Class – Dirke Tiede will play for the first two classes, and Nora Smith is finding musicians for the other classes.
The “Guideline for Children Dancing with the Boston Branch” was sent to the Teaching and Music Committee.
The workshop to be held in Fairlee, VT on January 12, 2019 was approved by the committee.
- h. *Tartan Times* (Susan) – Evelyn and Barbara report that things are holding steady.
- i. Boston Scottish Country Dancers (Marsha) – The dancers had a good time at the Ceilidh and felt that it was not as intimidating as the Concert, so they didn't feel the need to be as polished. They have not been invited to the BCMFest this year but assume they will be doing NEFFA to provide a SCD presence.
- j. Membership (Susan) – Membership is ahead moneywise from the same time last year. There are still several classes that do not contain the required eight members to qualify for music subsidies and insurance coverage. There are currently 200 Branch members and 17 associate members.
- k. Nominating Committee (Marsha) – Gary Apfel has agreed to fill the vacancy on the committee.
- l. Website (Jeff) – The webmasters would like an updated Who's Who for the website.
- m. Bookstore (Cathy) – Nothing to report at this time.

n. Class Liaisons –

- Newton, MA (Sue) – The group will be doing an informal demo in Lincoln, MA on Monday December 3rd.
- Nashua, NH (John) - The New Year's Day Dance is at 3PM with musicians Terry Traub, Elizabeth Anderson, and Emerald Rae. The information is posted on the branch calendar. Sylvia Miskoe continues to lead live music once a month.
- Chelmsford, MA (John) - The class has submitted another application to the Chelmsford Cultural Council for a grant to pay for live music at every class next year. (Sue Chari is playing again Dec 7th - everyone come!) The class has been asked to perform again at the Harrington Elementary School's International Heritage Festival at the end of January and are putting a group together with MaryEllen Scannell supporting.
- Kennebunk, ME (John) – The class has two new dancers but will be taking the month of December off (per tradition) and will resume on January 6, 2019. The tentative date for Kennebunk's DownEast Fling is June 15. (They cannot reserve the hall until the first of the new year.)
- Greenland, NH (John) – One class has already been cancelled because of winter weather. Several folks have expressed interest in the class, but, so far, only one has shown up and he seems to have disappeared. They remain ever hopeful to be able to beef up the roster for the class.
- Brunswick, ME (John) – The class will break for 2 weeks for the holiday. They will submit a request for reimbursement for \$45 written to the St Andrews Society of Maine for a Scottish Country Dance ad in the newspaper insert and program for the Maine Highland Games. They are in the process of getting a copy of the check.
- Stow, MA (Sharon) – The class has live music once a month and will be dancing on December 14th.
- Salem, MA (Sharon) – The class is gearing up for the Pinewoods Benefit Ball scheduled for December 1st and is hosting the Candidates Classes.
- Great Barrington, MA (Winifred) – The class averages 6 to 8 dancers and dance year round. They hold small dance parties in the winter and summer but do not invite other dancers because their hall is quite small. Several members of the class attended the Fall Frolic.

5. Next Meeting –

- a. January 9, 2019 – at Marsha's at 7:15 PM
- b. January 30, 2019 -