

Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Dance Society

Minutes of the Executive Committee

December 4, 2019 (November meeting)

Present for phone meeting: Marsha Byrnes, Cathy Crabtree, Karen Gansz, Sharon Gilmour, Susan Haines, Winifred McGowan, Linda McJannet, Lance Ramshaw, John Salyards, Jeremy Thorpe

Guest: Laurie Somario

- 1. Minutes from the October 23, 2019 meeting** – The minutes were approved with the corrections suggested by Cathy (correct Quicken to QuickBooks, federal report changed to report with the Secretary of the Commonwealth in the Treasurer’s report, and the SDCEA is defined as an independent, self-governing organization). The minutes with the corrections were resent prior to this meeting.
- 2. Treasurer’s Report** (Cathy) – Cathy reports that the total liabilities and net assets stand at \$67,018. The Ceilidh made a profit which will be shared with Highland Dance Boston and the Scots Charitable Society. Membership revenue is high but will decrease when payment is made to Headquarters in mid-December. The Boston Scottish Country Dancers did not have as many paying gigs this year and are still owed for a performance done this Fall.
- 3. Reports from Liaisons** –
 - a. Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (July 10 – 18, 2020) (Laurie) – Laurie forwarded and discussed the proposed budget.

Talking points -

 - Pinewoods fees have increased 2% from 2019, from \$55 to \$56. This is the expected annual increase unless any major damage should occur.
 - A \$150 buffer was added to the insurance line. There has been talk of adding a camper liability waiver, and the wording may need language from a lawyer.
 - The crossover lunch fee has increase \$1 to \$7 per person, and there were about 30 campers at the crossover lunch last year.
 - Overall, the teaching budget is lower this year because there is no teacher from Australia, but the cost of flights is higher, a trend that will probably continue.
 - There is a small increase in the musician budget with one musician still not confirmed.
 - There was a proposal to increase the pay for the Pinewoods Reel Demystified class from \$25 to \$50, in line with the other one-off classes. It was decided to maintain the \$25 fee because the Pinewoods Reel is known by many people and limited planning is required for the class.

- The parties at Pinecones have never had a budget line item, so \$60 has been added for each of the two parties to serve as starter money for refreshments.
 - There was much discussion concerning camper fee increases. It was decided that the rates should be \$380 for Session I, \$450 for Session II, and \$780 for Both Sessions (an increase of \$20, \$10, and \$30 respectively).
 - There are plenty of magnets available for the name badges, so the \$50 in the budget is not needed.
 - The refreshments for the Welcome Parties may go over the \$200 allotted for each in the budget, so the amount should be increased to \$250 for each party
- b. Highland Ball (May 9, 2020) (Marsha) – Marsha presented the budget based on last year’s numbers. The cost of renting the halls has increased (Welcome Dance from \$240 to \$270 and hall for the Ball from \$880 to \$1100). The catering fee will increase approximately 10% to \$4200. Exec decided not to offer an early-bird special rate, so the prices will be \$18 for the Welcome Dance, \$65 for the Ball, and \$45 for non-dancers and students. The sound will be less expensive if a Branch sound person is used. However, the Branch sound system is wearing out, so there should be further discussion at the January Exec. meeting. For the Brunch, \$25 needs to be added for the MC. Linda moved (second by Lance) approving the Budget. The motion passed.
- c. Joint Ceilidh (November 2, 2019) (Linda) – The team will be meeting soon to debrief the event. The food was good and plentiful and served in a timely fashion, and the attendees danced and had fun. The event made a profit which will be shared three ways (RSCDS Boston Branch, Highland Dance Boston, and Scots Charitable Society). The concept of a Ceilidh has proven to be acceptable, but it does involve a lot of work by a lot of people. The mission of the Branch is to promote dancing, and the Ceilidh needs to find a way/someone to speak about dancing and to promote the Branch. This year’s Ceilidh showed improvements over last year’s and the venue has a great space. There will be more information after the debriefing. Exec. agreed that the Ceilidh should be done again next year.
- d. ESCape (July 6 – 10, 2020) (Sharon) – Nothing to report at this time.
- e. Loon Mountain Games (September 18 – 20, 2020) (Karen) – Nothing to report at this time.
- f. Teaching and Music Committee (Marsha) – An at-large member is still needed. Debbie Jarvis will fill the musician vacancy. The Video Workshop will be held on December 7, and Robert McOwen is running it. A workshop for MCs is still in the discussion stage. A workshop led by Jen Schoonover will be held in Fairlee, VT on January 11. A Technique and Fun Workshop is being planned for February 29 in Topsham, ME. There was a request for \$295 to cover expenses, and this sum was approved by Exec. Exec would like to know “the big picture” of TMC’s plans for

workshops for the next year.

NEFFA will be held this year in its new location in Acton, MA.

For Pinewoods Scottish Sessions 2020, TMC has been working on the class descriptions so that attendees will have a clearer picture of the expectations for the particular class and can then do a self-evaluation of their own skills level before selecting a class. The evening MCs have all been selected.

- g. Boston Scottish Country Dancers (Marsha) – They are “resting” after performing at the Ceilidh.
- h. Nominating Committee (Marsha) – Nothing to report at this time.
- i. New Hampshire Highlands (August 28 – 30, 2020) (Susan) – Roberta Lasnik reports that Terry Traub will once again be the music Director, and the teachers will include Jen Schoonover, Arthur McNair, and one other who is yet to be determined.
- j. *Tartan Times* (Susan) – John Crabtree has tried to determine the process for the printing and distribution of the *Tartan Times*. The Folk Arts Center address is printed on the front and back covers and will be removed. The return address will be listed with Cathy and John’s home address information. He was able to print the hardcopies and generate address labels to mail them to those people requesting a paper copy. He would like to continue to do this (which streamlines the process from its previous method)
- k. Membership (Susan) – Membership stands at 197 and 18 associate members. Of concern is the fact that 49 members and 3 associates from last year have not rejoined this year.
- l. Website (Lance) – The issue with credit cards somehow resolved itself. The “members only” page is being updated.
- m. Bookstore (Cathy) – To date, one person has asked about the job description for the Bookstore Manager.
- n. Equipment (John) – Thom Howe reports that he was unable to re-create the issue that been occurring. The system was underpowered for the Ceilidh.
- o. Class Liaisons –
 - Fairlee, VT (Karen) – Gary Apfel reports that the Fairlee Class held its Autumn Social on Oct. 12. While there was no exact count, the dancers numbered in the mid-forties. The class is always very appreciative of the financial subsidy from the Branch.
Seven dancers attended the Northampton Tea Social in November. The Northampton Class put on a very nice affair, and they all enjoyed the afternoon considerably.
Attendance at class most Wednesdays hovers a little short or a little above two sets. The next event for the Fairlee Class is a workshop sponsored by TMC in January with Jen Schoonover.
 - Nashua, NH (John) – The annual New Year’s Dance and Potluck is scheduled for January 1 starting at 3 PM.

- Cambridge, MA (Lance) – Everything is fine, and the Cambridge Class Holiday Party will be held on December 16.
- Stow, MA (Sharon) – The class has been averaging two-plus sets and recently celebrated Jeanetta McColl's birthday.
- Salem, MA (Sharon) – MaryEllen Scannell reports that Cathy Fahey and Karen Sollins have been great help as she continues to recuperate. Volunteers are needed for the Pinewoods Benefit Dance.

4. Old Business –

5. New Business –

- a. Volunteer fatigue – any thoughts – The discussion was postponed.

6. Next Meeting –

- a. January 8 – brief phone meeting and talk with Thom Howe
- b. January 29 – at Marsha's at 7:15 PM