

**Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Dance Society**  
**Minutes of the Executive Committee**  
February 26, 2020

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

1. **Minutes from the January 29, 2020 meeting** – The minutes were approved as submitted.
2. **Treasurer's Report (Cathy)** - Cathy reports that we are ahead of where we were last year at this time (by \$2653), and the total liabilities and net assets stand at \$63,783. The Pinewoods deadline is quickly approaching, so deposits have been coming in. The security deposit (\$200) from the Irish Social Club has still not been returned. A few late-arrival membership dues have been paid to Headquarters along with an invoice for the Bookstore. The invoice for the hall rental for the Boston Scottish Country Dancers was received and has been paid. Highland Ball expenses include the \$2000 deposit for the caterer. Some of the money approved for sound equipment has been spent on speakers.
3. **Reports from Liaisons** -
  - a. Highland Ball (May 9, 2020) (Marsha) – Marsha reports that preparations for the Ball are reasonably under control. Advertising has been placed on other websites and sent to Scotland. Only about 12 ball tickets have been sold plus 7 for the Welcome Dance. The deposit to the caterer has been paid. Information for the booklet needs to be sent to Kat Dutton by the middle of March. Jeremy will be doing the booklet cover and name badge design. Susie Petrov probably has an electronic copy of the 2019 booklet to use as a reference when creating the copy for this year's booklet. Charles Liu will be the liaison to the band on Ball night.
  - b. Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (July 10 – 18, 2020) (Jeremy) – The deadline for applications is March 1, 2020. There are 120 signed up for Session I (including 7 first timers), 125 for Session II (14 first timers) 18 kitchen requests, 8 SDCEA scholarship applications, and 3 New Generations Initiative applications. Jeremy, Kat Dutton, and Laurie Somario will be attending the Program Providers meeting scheduled for April 18, 2020. Bruce Mabbott has agreed to stay on for another 3 years as the RSCDS Representative to the Pinewoods Board. Three volunteers have stepped forward to chair Scottish Sessions Pinewoods for 2021 and 2022. Exec approved the new chairs.

- c. ESCape (July 6 – 10, 2020) (Sharon) – Sharon has not heard from the co-chairs, but Cathy will contact them to remind them to forward in a timely fashion any checks they receive. On-line payment is also up and working. Carl Mastandrea will be forwarding the contracts for both ESCape and Scottish Sessions Pinewoods to Jeremy to be signed.
- d. Equipment (John) – Thom Howe has purchased new speakers. He is also looking at an upgraded monitor and is researching for the mixer. He may not have them in time for the Scholarship Dance, but that shouldn't be a problem.
- e. Loon Mountain Games (September 18 – 20, 2020) (Karen) – No report at this time.
- f. Joint Ceilidh (Cathy) – The three organizing groups feel that this year's Ceilidh was a success. Unfortunately, the message about the Branch of who we are and what we do was not really expressed, and we need to find a way to be more deliberate in our intent and in promoting ourselves as an organization.  
We have a verbal confirmation from the Irish Social Club to reserve the hall for November 14, 2020. We won't be applying for a grant this year. Cathy will be stepping back a bit and Linda will be approaching a few people that she thinks would be good co-chairs.
- g. Teaching and Music Committee (Marsha) – The Committee continues to work out the details for Scottish Sessions Pinewoods. It is hoped that the descriptions being provided to the campers will help them to decide their appropriate level of dancing ability (beginner, capable, or competent). Some groups will be combined so they will be a fairly good-sized class. The committee continues to work on names for the classes.  
Charles Liu has one more year to serve on the committee, and Kat Dutton will serve as the chair for next year. The only role to fill is for one at-large member or a musician.  
Future workshops being considered –
  - Karen Sollins and Jen Schoonover are considering offering a workshop on how to be an MC.
  - Possibly a review of an RSCDS Book.
  - A workshop to encourage young dancers.
  - Possibly a Gaelic evening at the Canadian-American Club
- h. Boston Scottish Country Dancers (Marsha) – The team is preparing for NEFFA (with only 9 dancers) and possible 2 other events, Harvard Square in late June and the Holi Festival in Lexington, MA in May.
- i. Nominating Committee (Marsha) – Marsha will relay to the Committee that two at-large members are needed for Exec (Sharon and John are going off).

Exec will need to find one person for the Nominating Committee and one for the Teaching and Music Committee.

- j. New Hampshire Highlands (August 28 - 30, 2020) (Susan) – Roberta Lasnik reports that she is working on the flyer.
- k. *Tartan Times* (Susan) – Evelyn Murray reports that she is settled in her new home in Surrey and has her new computer working on Wi-Fi. She will be working on the March edition and forwarding it to Barbara McOwen for completion. She appreciates any news/information that is contributed.
- l. Membership (Susan) – No report at this time.
- m. Website (Lance) – The Exec Committee minutes through December have been uploaded to the website. What should be done with the older sets of minutes? The most current year or two should be posted and the others stored in a folder.
- n. Bookstore (Cathy) – A replacement for the Bookstore Managers is nearly in place. The question was asked of whether or not the manager could bring their child(ren) to Pinewoods. Exec approved the Bookstore Manager bringing their child(ren) to camp.
- o. Class Liaisons –
  - Brunswick, ME (Karen) – Patti Tillotson says that there is not much to report. The date is set their Annual Fall Dance Party, October 17. They will also be hosting the Maine Workshop this coming Saturday.
  - Fairlee, VT (Karen) – Gary Apfel reports that five members of the Fairlee class attended the Mount Cardigan ski and dance weekend. All five not only summited the mountain but danced Saturday night thereafter!  
This past Saturday, they had a luncheon to celebrate their longtime dancing friend, Nancy Dean. Scottish Country Dancing would not exist in Fairlee without Nancy's persistent commitment to making sure that there have been teachers to teach and places to dance. They will miss not having her at class on a weekly basis.  
The class is currently test-driving dances for their spring social (scheduled for May 16) and expect to have a program for circulation shortly.
  - Kennebunk, ME (John) – The DownEast Fling is scheduled for June 13<sup>th</sup> and the program is in progress.
  - Northampton, MA (Winifred) – Their party will be held on the first Saturday in June. Karen Lavallee-Tente reports that a next-round-candidate plus a couple of other people have been assisting with the teaching responsibilities.
  - Cambridge, MA (Lance) – All is well in Cambridge!

- Stow, MA (Sharon) – The class has been averaging 2 to 3 sets of dancers, and Nora Smith will be playing on Friday.
  - Brookline, MA (Linda) – The class has been struggling with only 4 – 8 dancers and doing a lot of 3-couple dances. There has been some help with the teaching responsibilities.
- p. Calendar (Jeremy) – Jeremy reports that he has placed a few non-Branch events on the calendar.

**4. Old Business –**

**5. New Business –**

**6. Next Meeting –**

- a. March 25 at 7:15
- b. April 29