

**Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Dance Society**  
**Minutes of the Executive Committee**

August 26, 2020

**Zoom meeting:** Marsha Byrnes, Cathy Crabtree, Karen Gansz, Susan Haines, Winifred McGowan, Linda McJannet, Lance Ramshaw, Jeremy Thorpe

- 1. Minutes from the June 24, 2020 meeting** – The minutes were approved as submitted.
- 2. Treasurer's Report (Cathy)** - Cathy reports that the cash balance stands at \$69,976.00. The prepaid revenue consists of dues from three people who have already paid for the '20-'21 year, and the remainder is the balance from Pinewoods. The ESCape monies have been settled with some camper reimbursements and the balance to CDS to pay the teachers and musicians. The grant money for the musicians was paid out to nine musicians. We should end the year with about \$1000 (currently \$840) increase in net assets and a cash balance of about \$70,000. If we get a lot of requests for music subsidies, we may need to dip into our funds.
- 3. Reports from Liaisons –**
  - a. Nominating Committee (Marsha) – A suggestion for a replacement on the Nominating Committee was made, and Linda will do the asking. Four people were suggested as possible replacements for the Executive Committee, and Jeremy will be checking with them.
  - b. Membership (Susan) – Peter and Mary Olszowka have agreed to serve as Membership chairs. Thank you to Peter and Mary!  
The discussion then focused on setting the membership fees for the '20-'21 year. Cathy stated that she was optimistic that the numbers would stay the same, but offering a 25 to 30% discount would be an incentive. If we should be able to return to live dancing, there may be more requests for music subsidies, but we do have funds. The proposed rates would be \$69 for a joint membership (down from \$92) and \$41 for a single (down from \$55). The single limited income would be \$26 (down from \$35), youth would be \$19 (down from \$25), benefactor couples would be \$170, and a sustaining couple would be \$125. A motion was made and approved to accept these new rates. Jeremy will revise the on-line form and the JotForm. Paper forms will also be available. An e-mail will be crafted and sent to the Membership to introduce Peter and Mary and to highlight the new fees. We should also be promoting the Zoom classes that are taking place. Any members who have not renewed need to be contacted.  
The TMC has suggested that another way for people to feel seen and recognized is to include their desired pronoun(s) on their application and to

include these in the Directory. TMC is including pronouns on the musician list. The due date for inclusion in the Directory is November 15, 2020.

- c. ESCape (Jeremy) – As was previously stated, the ESCape monies have been distributed. There is nothing else to report at this time.
- d. Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (Jeremy) – The virtual Pinewoods week events were very successful. The auction raised approximately \$13,000 for Pinewoods Camp, Inc., and the concert raised over \$5000. A grant request of \$3000 from the SDCEA was divided amongst the 9 musicians with each receiving \$335.
- e. Teaching and Music Committee (Marsha) – Debbie Jarvis is the new chair and Robert McOwen is the vice-chair. Charles Liu is working with and coaching Debbie in her new role. The committee is working on updating the musician list and preparing the letter for the classes. Karen Sollins forwarded a letter to outline the committee's proposed events for the coming months. The events would occur on the same Sunday (probably the 3<sup>rd</sup>) of each month and include a "Family party" in September, "Intersecting Relationships" with Susie Petrov in October, "Early RSCDS Dance Books" in November, "Music Skills" part one in December, more dance history from Jeanetta McColl, and a party of "old chestnuts." All sessions would be via Zoom, and the cost would be a stipend of \$25 per session. This proposal was moved and accepted by Exec.
- f. Highland Ball (Marsha) – The hall has been reserved for May 8, 2021, but there is no contract. Katie McNally has been re-invited to be the band leader. The question was raised of how it became a task for Exec. to select the band for the Ball. Howard and Roberta Lasnik will be asked.
- g. Equipment (Lance) – Nothing at this time.
- h. Loon Mountain Games (Karen) – The live Games have been cancelled, but virtual events are planned for the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of September.
- i. Joint Ceilidh (November 2020) (Cathy) – At this time, it is uncertain as to whether or not there will be a virtual event.
- j. Boston Scottish Country Dancers (Marsha) – Nothing to report at this time.
- k. New Hampshire Highlands (Susan) – A Virtual Ice Cream Ceilidh and Benefit Social will be held on Friday August 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:45 PM. Monies collected will benefit the NHH 2020 musicians and teachers, and any extra funds will be sent to St. Methodios, the Greek Camp where this weekend is held.
- l. *Tartan Times* (Susan) – Barbara McOwen reports that she and Evelyn are starting work on the new edition, and she hopes to include some nice photographs of Sally Dee.
- m. Website (Lance) – The webmasters report that they have had some issues with people hosting movies on our site. Some firewalls prevent the movies

from loading. It is best to link movies from the site and not list them on YouTube.

- n. Bookstore (Cathy) – Nothing to report at this time.
- o. Class Liaisons –
  - Northampton, MA (Winifred) – The church where the class meets is for sale, but the sale fell through.
  - Great Barrington, MA (Winifred) – The class meets via Zoom on Tuesdays from 12 to 1 with 5 or 6 people participating. They have been doing this since April.
  - Albany, NY (Winifred) – The class has been meeting via Zoom on Sunday evenings since March and has utilized a variety of teachers. They will be holding the Fall Frolic via Zoom on the last weekend in October.
  - Brunswick, ME (Karen) – The class has been doing weekly Zoom sessions for quite a while and plans to hold its October 17 Annual Fall Dance Party via Zoom. There will be live music, and the program will contain 9 dances that will be done two times through.
  - Cambridge, MA (Lance) – The September and October classes and social hour with live music will continue on-line.

**4. Old Business -**

**5. New Business -**

- a. A general COVID-19 message will be sent to the membership and will encourage everyone to continue to participate.
- b. November SAGM – The SAGM will be held on Monday November 9 at 7:45 PM via Zoom.

**6. Next Meeting -**

- a. September 30 – at 7:15 PM via Zoom