

## **Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Dance Society**

### **Minutes of the Executive Committee**

January 6, 2021 (December meeting)

**Zoom meeting:** Marsha Byrnes, Bill Card, Cathy Crabtree, Karen Gansz, Susan Haines, Winifred McGowan, Lance Ramshaw, Alena Taylor, Jeremy Thorpe

**Absent:** Linda McJannet

1. **Minutes from December 2, 2020 (November meeting)** – The second edition (correction of deadline date for *Tartan Times* and stating that the Northampton Class was not meeting) of the minutes were approved as submitted.
2. **Treasurer's Report (Cathy)** - Cathy reports that the cash balance stands at \$77,283. The prepaid revenue is \$14,080, Pinewoods deposits for 2021. Cathy has made the first payment to Headquarters for membership dues and will make the second in February. People are still continuing to send in their memberships. Class liaisons should remind the classes to encourage members to join if they have not done so already. The Grant income listed under "Revenue" is \$800 from the SDCEA for Pinewoods teachers. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday class event teachers were paid a \$25 honorarium. Music subsidies were paid to the Albany and Brunswick classes for their events that occurred in the Fall.
3. **New Business** –
  - a. SDCEA liaison/coordinator – Linda McJannet has volunteered to fill the role of liaison/coordinator. There are still questions concerning when it is appropriate to apply for a subsidy versus SDCEA support. The SDCEA is still working on guidelines and looking at cancelled events as opposed to events that would normally occur but have not been scheduled.
  - b. Branch Zoom account – Peter Olszowka suggested that the Branch purchase its own Zoom account (about \$150) for everyone to use. The difficult part may be scheduling its use. Would more classes take advantage of its availability and offer more classes? Liaisons should ask their class representatives if it would be worthwhile to them. More information is needed before a decision can be made.
4. **Reports from Liaisons** -
  - a. Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (Jeremy) – Pinewoods has still not made any decisions about whether or not they will be able to open this summer. If by July at least half of our campers were vaccinated no less than 10 days in advance of camp, we may be able to hold a smaller camp of 75 to 100 campers but probably not a full camp. There would definitely be a different look and feel to camp, proof of vaccination would probably be required, and some people may just not be comfortable and would choose not to attend.

We will need to follow the guidelines from Pinewoods Camp Inc. and the state. The PCI board is meeting at the end of January and again in March to make their final decisions. We will invite Bruce Mabbott, the Boston Branch representative to the board, to attend our next meeting. At this point in time, we can only remain cautiously optimistic.

As a side note, clean-up crews are needed for this spring's camp clean-up.

- b. Highland Ball (Marsha) – Jeremy has done some research on the price of rental tents. The costs range from \$.75 to \$1.00 per square foot. Cathy inquired at the Pierce House in Lincoln, MA and found that a 30 x 105 square foot tent, which should accommodate 200 guests, rents for \$1895. According to the COVID-19 vaccine schedule (vaccinated versus not yet vaccinated), the number of attendees would be lower. Should we plan for perhaps doing the Brunch or look for a date in the Fall? No matter the decision, the state guidelines will still need to be followed. With fewer attendees, it would be harder to break even. It may be feasible to start small instead of taking on a major event. More information may be known by May. We could cancel the reservations for Memorial Hall and the church and tell the musicians to feel free to accept other gigs if they are offered to them.
- c. Teaching and Music Committee (Marsha) – The TMC discussed the fact that if Pinewoods 2021 does not occur, the co-chairs, music director, and staff should not be rolled over again into 2022. Exec agreed with this decision. The co-chairs for 2022 are Catherine Scannell, Theresa Conn, and Debbie Jarvis, and Tom Pixton will be the music director.  
For the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Online Events, January's will be a Burns Night, and Tom Pixton will be doing the February 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday.

#### **5. Optional reports from liaisons –**

- a. Nominating Committee (Marsha) – No report at this time.
- b. ESCape (Jeremy) – No report at this time.
- c. Equipment (Lance) – No report at this time.
- d. Loon Mountain Games (Karen) – Watch the countdown until September 17, 2021 for the next Games!
- e. Joint Ceilidh (Cathy) – No report at this time.
- f. Boston Scottish Country Dancers (Marsha) – No report at this time.
- g. New Hampshire Highlands (Susan) – No report at this time.
- h. Membership (Susan) – Peter Olszowka reports that all memberships received as of December 10, 2020 have been updated in the HQ database. A few more have been received since then but have not been processed. Peter has also updated the e-mail list with the webmasters (except for the late-date memberships). His next big task is to work on the directory. Cathy added that the dues paid to HQ included 36 joint and 85 single memberships.

- i. Tartan Times (Susan) – Barbara McOwen and Evelyn Murray will be starting the next issue in mid-February. The Great Barrington Zoom class needs to be added into the *Tartan Times* class listing.
- j. Website (Lance) – The listing of the Executive Committee members needs to be updated.
- k. Bookstore (Cathy) – No report at this time.
- l. Class Liaisons –
  - Albany, NY (Winifred) – The Hogmanay Party was a great success with about 60 participants.
  - Stow, MA (Alena) – Although the class is not meeting, their members have been encouraged to participate in the Albany Zoom classes.
  - Salem, MA (Alena) – Salem class members are encouraged to participate in the Cambridge Zoom classes.

**6. Old Business -**

**7. Next meetings -**

- a. February 3 at 7:15 PM via Zoom
- b. February 24 at 7:15 PM via Zoom