

Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Dance Society

Minutes of the Executive Committee

February 3, 2021 (January meeting)

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

Guest: Bruce Mabbott, Pinewoods Camp Inc. Board Representative

- 1. Minutes from January 6, 2021 (December meeting)** – The minutes of the January 6, 2021 meeting (December meeting) were accepted with one correction. The information for the Highland Ball concerning the cost of the 30' x 105' tent rental was obtained by Cathy from the Pierce House in Lincoln, MA.
- 2. Treasurer's Report (Cathy)** - Cathy reports that the cash balance stands at \$73,936. A few more membership dues have been received, and Cathy will make a payment to Headquarters in mid-February. The \$800 grant from the SDCEA for the Pinewoods teachers has not been used. Two teachers have passed on the fee, one has not yet answered, and one wants to wait and see what happens this summer. For expenses, there has been a little more paid out in Square fees, and \$75 (\$25 per presenter) has been paid for the 3rd Sunday teachers/presenters.
- 3. New Business –**
 - a) Pinewoods Board chat with Bruce Mabbott, PCI Board Representative – Bruce reports that the PCI Board has not yet made any firm decisions concerning what will happen at camp this year. It seems that the vaccination rates are slower than anticipated, so it is hard to predict how many people would be cleared to attend. The next board meeting is on Sunday March 7th, so there may be more information at that time. Any questions that the user groups have should be directed toward Warren Anderson.
Jeremy would like to be more optimistic and thinks that changes may be fast moving between March and May. Anyone who attends or works at camp will need to be vaccinated. There will obviously be many questions such as “what to do if someone is not vaccinated.” Vaccination is not ‘required,’ and everyone has the right to decide for themselves, but they also will not want to be left out when it comes to attending camp. No decisions need to be made at this time, and we can wait until March.
The PCI Board has run through various scenarios, looking at the number of crew members need for a 50% capacity or 25% capacity. Through the Shuttered Venue Grant Program, Pinewoods could recoup quite a lot of money no matter if they hire crew or not. Due to insurance constraints, Pinewoods is not able to hire out individual buildings to families or other small groups. As for the RSCDS, our objective in holding camp is not to try making a profit but to promote Scottish Country Dancing.

- b) Updating the Membership on Spring 2021 outlook – The Highland Ball is cancelled, but the Membership does not yet know. People still need to get vaccinated, plus the state needs to say when larger groups can safely gather. Perhaps when this happens, small groups of like-minded people will be able to gather for some type of outdoor event. Here’s hoping!
- c) SDCEA Application Guidelines – The SDCEA has published their revised application guidelines. Should the information be sent to the entire Membership? Maybe there are people in-need who are not aware of these funds. After some discussion, it was thought that the information should be sent to the class contacts, teachers, and musicians, and posted on the Branch Facebook page. Marsha will ask TMC to send it to the teachers and musicians, and Susan will send it to the class contacts.
Just as a reminder – Linda McJannet volunteered to be the SDCEA Liaison/ Coordinator.

4. Reports from Liaisons -

- b) Teaching and Music Committee (Marsha) – There is no new news concerning Pinewoods. For 2021, no musicians have purchased airline tickets, but a few teachers may need refunds.
For NEFFA, Jen Schoonover is proposing to do a Ceilidh and Charles Liu a beginner Scottish Country Dance class, all virtual.
TMC is also looking for ideas for the 3rd Sunday Class in May. Jen Schoonover and Karen Sollins would like to do a workshop on teaching Scottish Country Dance on Zoom.
- d) Equipment (Lance) – Thom Howe has found an analog mixer on Craigslist and says that this will be his donation. He does not wish to be reimbursed. He says he is nearly done with the equipment purchases. He will double check his records and Cathy will check ours. Thank you, Thom, for all of your hard work and efforts!
- i) Membership (Susan) – Cathy reports that memberships continue to trickle in. She will ask Peter Olszowka to get the information for people who have recently joined to the webmasters so they can receive Branch information on-line. Peter may not know what needs to be done and when it should be done. There are currently 196 members including associate members. 53 people who were members last year have not rejoined, but there are 15 new members. Some of the event chairs have not renewed. Susie Petrov has asked about including biographies and pictures of musicians on the website. Some are but many are not members of the Branch. This will be discussed at a later date.
- k) Website (Lance) - One class wants to post their schedule of Zoom classes. The live classes (if they were being held) are already posted. All in-person classes have been suspended, but there are several classes meeting virtually. An updated line is needed for the virtual class being held in Great Barrington.

Class contacts need to contact the webmasters to send information for the Zoom contact listing.

l) Bookstore (Cathy) – There was one transaction in the 4th quarter of 2020.

m) Class Liaisons –

- Cambridge, MA (Lance) – Zoom classes are going well.
- Albany, NY (Winifred) – The Albany Class appreciates all the support they receive from the Branch. Their next event, the Dance Flurry, will be occurring very soon.
- Great Barrington, MA (Winifred) – The Great Barrington class continues to meet via Zoom.
- Seacoast Scottish Country Dancers from Greenland, NH (Bill) – The class works on a dance a week (virtually).
- Brunswick, ME (Karen) – The Zoom class is doing well.

5. Old Business –

- a) Branch Zoom account – There were a couple of positive responses from classes who thought it might be handy to have an account at some point in time, but most everyone who is offering a virtual class either has an account or has access to an account. It may not be worth the overhead of trying to handle the scheduling, etc.

6. Next Meeting –

- a) Wednesday February 24 at 7:15 PM via Zoom