

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

April 28, 2021

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

Guest: Laurie Somario and Kat Dutton, both Pinewoods co-chair

1. **Minutes from March 31, 2021 meeting** – The minutes of the March 31, 2021 meeting were accepted with three correction. Under the SDCEA Liaison discussion, the sentence should read, “It seems that the SDCEA does everything for the Ed Rawson Dance including insurance, and the monies collected are donations to the SDCEA Scholarship so they can maintain their 501.c.3 status.” Under Joint Ceilidh, the abbreviation should be “SCS” not “CDS,” and for Class Liaisons, there should be a report for the Great Barrington class saying, “Classes are continuing via Zoom.”
2. **Treasurer’s Report (Cathy)** - Cathy reports that the cash balance stands at \$70,695, and there has not been much activity.
Cathy has updated our insurance, increasing the general liability to \$300,000 coverage for damage to rental property, i.e. Pinewoods, increasing the commercial property premium to cover the cost of equipment, an umbrella policy for excess Pinewoods liability, and \$1,000,000 coverage for the directors and officers to protect against such things as fraud or poor decision making. Cathy paid the first portion of the insurance (\$1974). The insurers did request that the Branch have both an anti-harassment policy and a non-discrimination policy, so a non-discrimination policy will need to be written. Cathy will write a draft policy for Exec to review in May.
3. **New Business** –
 - a) Belfast Class questions on Covid and liability – The Belfast, ME class would like to start holding in-person events, i.e. mini parties with the other Maine classes over the summer. In order to do this, they must be in compliance with the Maine state guidelines and restrictions and local restrictions regarding vaccination requirements. They could ask participants to sign waivers, but the organizers may not be protected from being sued if someone should get Covid, plus the Branch insurance does not cover viruses.
 - b) Potential Fall Concert, 2022 – A concert and its purpose aligns with our policies and by-laws of exposing the public to Scottish music and an interest in dancing, even potential new dancers or Branch members. It was proposed and approved by Exec to have Cathy and Linda explore the possibility of a Fall Concert in 2022.
4. **Scheduled reports from liaisons** –
 - a) Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (Jeremy) – Pinewoods will be open this summer from June 25 through September 7, 2021 and will continue to monitor the Massachusetts guidelines for events. At this time, the governor is suggesting that by August 1st, everything will be open and the restrictions lifted. The

positive points for us are the fact that we will have no children at camp, the dancing occurs outside, and the staff and campers will be vaccinated. We will need a no-fault cancellation policy for up-to-the-last-minute cancellations, and there will need to be information included in the staff contracts. If people are honest about their vaccination status, it all sounds almost “normal.” It would take some time and energy to process the applications and then to provide refunds if it does not work out. What would be the cutoff number if only a certain number of people want to attend? From the straw poll, about 80 to 85% of those polled said they would want to come. Can we delay? When does Pinewoods need the final payment? It is not so much a financial risk as it is a time risk. People want to get back to dancing. Could the campers make their final payment when they arrive at camp? Plymouth guidelines stand at 75% capacity, so we could accommodate about 100 people. With 100, we would still incur about a \$3300 loss. What about contactless dancing? Would the teachers be able to work with this? There are a lot of creative things that people will do, so they will adapt and have a good time. After the applications are posted, what should be the cutoff for the rollover people? After the deadline, applications could be opened for non-rollovers who would have 30 days to confirm their interest.

Exec approved that the Pinewoods chairs should move forward with the planning process. The rates were approved, but some other details still need to be worked out.

Laurie said that the co-chairs are looking at a 7-day schedule with no changes from 2019. Exec approved the rates as Session I increasing from \$360 to \$370, Session II would remain at \$440, and attendance at both sessions would increase from \$750 to \$760. Some money could be saved by eliminating snacks for the Ceilidh and Auction, plus the liquor for the liquor party is leftover from last year. Exec determined that the chairs should decide what to do about the rollovers who decide not to attend this year.

- b) Bookstore (Cathy) – Laurie Somario is ready to take over the Bookstore from the Littles and will plan to take a trip to Maine to pick up the inventory.
- c) Highland Ball (Marsha) – The virtual Ball will take place on May 8, 2021. The publicity has gone out twice and 66 people have registered. Charles Liu is handling the details and applying for a \$1500 grant for the Band plus \$600 for Ben, Elizabeth, and Beth. There may also be something occurring on Friday night, but there will be more information coming on that. If there are over 100 attendees, it will cost extra to use John Crabtree’s Zoom account. Emily Peterson would like to host the Brunch in 2022.
- d) ESCape – Daniel Potter and April Birnie have said that the status of ESCape 2021 is still undecided. If it does occur, it will probably be more casual and less structured. CDS Boston Centre does the programming, and the Branch handles the finances.

e) Membership – The fee schedule will need to be decided at the May Exec meeting.

5. Old Business –

6. Next Meeting –

a) Wednesday May 26 at 7:15 via Zoom