

**RSCDS Boston Branch Executive  
Committee Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, August 24, 2022, 7:15pm

Location: Zoom (link to come)  
Linda's cell 1-617-417-1621

Attendance: Anne Johnson, Alena Taylor, Linda McJannet, Bill Card, Marsha Byrnes, Cathy Crabtree, Connie Kent, Ted Randolph, David Grubb, Emily Russell.

Guests: Debbie Jarvis and Peter Olszowka.

**Agenda**

1. *Minutes from the previous meeting:* Jeremy is going to continue to do the calendar. Marsha will not take that on. Meeting notes updated and approved.
2. *Treasurer's report (Cathy)*
  - a. \$80k in bank, but we have not paid our final PW bill. Boston Branch to act as donating agent to PW for approximately \$2,800. The branch will also receive donations. Next month we will have a final report with Scottish PineWoods numbers.
  - b. ESCape had a small profit \$1,369: our branch will receive half.
  - c. Bottom line: we will have a very small increase in net assets.
  - d. Future topic: pros/cons about having a branch PayPal account.
3. *New business*
  - a. Pinewoods will celebrate 100 years – looking for people who want to participate in preparations of the celebrations. Someone from Delaware branch? Former liaisons? Mel/Ellie? Terry Harvey? Laura? Linda will reach out.
4. *Scheduled reports from liaisons*
  - a. *Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (Connie):*
    - i. *Co-Chairs' report (Debbie Jarvis for Debbie and Cat Scannell)*
      - Cathy talked about ongoing finances. Fortunate that many people who had to leave early opted to donate their refund back to PW and Boston Branch.
      - Teaching staff well received. Conditioning class well received. Music well planned and received.
    - Covid: Session 1, Day 1 had 134 campers. During Session 1, 1 camper left early due to covid. Session 2, Day 1 had 110 campers. During Session 2, 23 campers left early due to covid or covid fears
      - Other takeaways: Class offerings – think about levels or clarify language to label classes. Too many options for the afternoon

classes. Bring back the first-timers party. Keep the conditioning class, at least on a part-time basis. Bring back highland dance class full time.

- Gendered language: There is no right answer, but the topic continues to be problematic.
- Debbie Jarvis and Cat Scannell will co-chair 2023. Dates for next year: July 7-15

b. *Membership (Cathy) and Peter & Mary Olszowka:*

- i. The updated 2022/2023 membership application forms are out as of about a month ago. So far, we've received 2 by mail and about 10 online applications.
- ii. Outreach/Membership drive:
  - Tartan Times: Reminder will be printed (in a couple of weeks) along with a message to renew membership. Linda to review the message.
  - Classes: If anyone from Exec attends any classes, be sure to make an announcement to remind folks to renew or become members.
  - Email Blasts: Initial email blast with letter to all members, and separate initial blast to non-members (Meyer has this list) with invitation letter in early September. Send a follow up message with an individualized letter in October/November to those who may have missed the first email. Linda will send around the letter from last year. Perhaps send a different message to existing members vs class dancers.
    - We do not have a master list of email lists, as an ongoing project, Peter will create a database. Liaisons to reach out to classes to send class email lists to Peter. Debbie to send PW email list. Other possibilities include Highland Ball and NH Highlands email lists.
- iii. Peter will make pronouns optional on the membership form.

5. *Optional reports from liaisons*

a. *Teaching & Music Committee (Marsha):*

- i. Spent time talking about PW evaluations.
- ii. Need 18 bodies to do exams for candidate classes.
- iii. Not going to do a family dance this fall.

b. *Boston Scottish Country Dancers (Marsha):*

Laura sent out a doodle poll and prep something that will require less practice for possible performance in Harvard Sq and the Nov concert. They need more dancers.

- c. *Highland Ball (Marsha):*  
Karen Sollins will put together program by Nov. She will cut down to 15 dances due to time and resources. Judy Nicholson has agreed to put together a band for the ball. She wants to know budget and time. (to be discussed in the November exec meeting).
- d. *Fall 2022 Concert (Linda):*  
Ticket sales in advance and at the door will be online only. Consensus is to give the seating chart and allow people to choose their own seats upon purchase. John will go ahead with the TicketLeap.
- e. *ESCAPE (Bill):*
  - i. 124 people attended ESCape, one person left due to COVID, a good time was had by all, and the session made a profit.
  - ii. The Session management has been expanded from just April and Daniel to a Committee of 5, including our own Connie Kent.
- f. *Website (David):*
  - i. Scots Charitable Society link has been added
  - ii. Incorporated concert to advertise first upon opening the website. John will send the TicketLeap URL to purchase tickets once he has it.
- g. *Nominating Committee (Marsha):*  
Lucinda and Merrill are still on the committee, but we are still missing a member. We need to find someone by January. Vickery said no, Laurie said no, Lois said no. Did we ask Rebecca Gore or Susie Long? Marsha will investigate.
- h. *Equipment (Connie):*  
No issues. Thom is bringing sound system to NH Highlands this weekend.
- i. *Publicity (Alena):*
  - i. Meetup has 122 members
  - ii. Great Barrington needs their own Meetup group (associated with Branch)
  - iii. Fall concert needs additional event for matinee and ticket purchase URL.
- j. *Loon Mountain Games (Sept. 16-18) (Alena):*
  - i. At the Main Games Merrill recruited one dancer from Connecticut to help with the dance booth at the New Hampshire Games and will send a message out via the branch to recruit more locally.
  - ii. Patti and I will be doing our usual of ceilidh and SCD "try-its" on all three days of the NHHG.
- k. *New Hampshire Highlands (Anne):*

60 adults and 5 children are currently signed up. 3 people have positive covid tests and will not attend. This number is expected to go up in the next few days. They will go ahead with the weekend regardless. Requirements: masking indoors, provide negative PCR test, bring antigen tests.

l. *Tartan Times* (**Emily**):

No update.

m. *Bookstore* (**Alena**)

i. Will be attending NH Highlands

n. *Class Liaisons*

Great Barrington, MA (Ted): No updates

Northampton, MA (Ted): Will apply for music subsidy. Send an email to Cathy

Albany, NY (Ted): No updates

Greenland, NH (Bill): Starts dancing in October

Nashua, NH (Bill): No report

Kennebunk, ME (Bill): Starts dancing in mid-September

Belfast, ME (Anne): Maine Highland games, demo teams danced and gave workshops

Brunswick, ME (Anne): Fall dance party Oct 15th

Bucksport, ME (Anne): No report

Lancaster, NH (David): Start dancing in September

Fairlee, VT (David): Thinking about dancing inside

Burlington, VT (Connie): No report

Cambridge, MA (Emily): Going back to the Canadian American club in September

Brookline, MA (Emily): Not meeting. Looking for someone else to take over the class

Newton, MA (Emily): No report

Bedford, MA (Emily): No report

Salem, MA (Alena): Consortium of SCD teachers looking for Salem class dance space in fall including doing a demo with fiddlers & pipers on Salem Common. Trying to work with Salem Chamber of Commerce to be included in some of Salem's big events before October. Also creating a Wee Bluet website

Stow, MA (Alena): No news.

Chelmsford, MA (Alena): Met the first Friday of August and are planning to meet on September 2. Still have mask and vaccine requirements. Have had a couple of class members contract covid but not in the class.

6. *Continuing business*  
None

7. Next Meeting: September 28, 2022

Connie and David will not be able to attend but will provide reports via email.

*Optional reports:* Archives (Emily); Calendar (Marsha)