

**RSCDS Boston Branch**  
**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**  
Wednesday, April 26, 2023 7:15pm

Location: Zoom  
for Zoom access use link in email OR call: 1-646-876-9923

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

**Agenda**

- I. Minutes from the previous meeting. No changes to Cathy's minutes from last meeting. Please download and send it to Meyers.
  
- II. Treasurer's report (**Cathy**)
  - A. Looking for more Highland Ball deposits. Still a few new members are coming in. Marketing represents post cards which were designed by Jeremy. The demonstration team has not received an invoice to pay the rent. Payments to Laura and Andy noted in the report. Pinewoods expenses have been paid for staff travel. Our bank balance appears large, but we are collecting Pinewoods payments, but have not yet received the invoice from Pinewoods.
  
- III. New business
  - A. Chairs for next year's Highland Ball (and PW)?
    - a. Cathy had ideas about next year's Highland Ball – Rosemary Jackson and Susie Long? Perhaps Sharon Gilmore and Lenard? Cathy will approach Susie and Rosemary this coming week. Then speak to Elizabeth if she would consider chairing the ball again next year with help from these people.
    - b. Cathy thought perhaps Mark and Kiera Hartstein may be interested in co-chairing Pinewoods? Emily can reach out. Pinewoods does not have the 2024 session dates yet.
  
- IV. Scheduled reports from liaisons
  - A. Update on replacement for TMC members-Linda/Marsha
    - i. MaryEllen would like to be on TMC. OKed by Exec for the teacher spot. The musician spot could be Sue Chari if she is willing. Marsha will let Debbie know, and Bill will talk to Sue.
  - B. Double check final candidates for elected and appointed committees: We (Exec) still need to find a candidate for the Nominating Committee (turns out they don't have the job of nominating their own successors).
    - i. Linda spoke to Ken Launie, he said he would consider it. Merrill would probably become chair once Lucinda's term is complete.
  
- V. Optional reports from liaisons

- VI. Teaching & Music Committee (**Marsha**)
  - a. Refreshments on June 5<sup>th</sup> for the AGM? Masks are optional for the meeting, but not for dancing. Ask Alex if she is comfortable with that? NEFFA went well. Mark suggested a teacher group in the branch to meet annually to talk about teacher issues (not just gender, but all issues). He will look into getting it started.
  
- VII. Boston Scottish Country Dancers (**Marsha**)
  - A. Lived through NEFFA. There were very few performances this year.
  
- VIII. Highland Ball (**Marsha**)
  - A. 72 people for Saturday and 40-ish for Friday (about the same as last year). The booklet is nearly done. Thank you for putting the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo on the program.
  
- IX. Nominating Committee (**Marsha**)
  - A. They nominated Karen Sollins and Kat Dutton for executive board beginning in July.
  
- X. Fall 2023 Concert (**Linda**)
  - A. Working on planning publicity, posters, tickets.
  - B. Karen Campbell Mahoney in her role as member of the Board of the Scots Charitable Society, who will be promoting it to their members.
  - C. Highland Dance Boston is performing with us and will promote, too, we assume.
  
- XI. ESCape (**Connie**)
  - A. Connie circulated the new contract, which has been approved.
  
- XII. Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (**Bill**)
  - A. Chairs reported they do not have updated covid requirements from Pinewoods committee. There are people who are waiting to sign up until there is an answer. Session I is not full yet (121 out of 145), 116 out 145 are filled for session II.
  
- XIII. Membership (**Cathy**)
  - A. Headquarters is raising prescription rates by 4%, and we will have a few extra expenses this year. We do have a balance in the checking account, and we could afford to leave rates as they are now and raise them next year. The motion was made to raise all rates by 5% but decrease the couple's discount by half. Cathy to build out the spreadsheet and send it around.
  
- XIV. Website (**David**)
  - A. Update on revisions to website and text of policies/procedures

- i. Changes have been made. The members only section is now just the directory. About Pinewoods section has also been updated. Cathy suggested that the directory be up-to-date as possible on the website. This is a PDF that could be uploaded easily.
  
- XV. Equipment (**Connie**)
  - A. Thom had one event added to the calendar in Maine for the fall.
  
- XVI. Publicity (**Alena**)
  - A. Alena emailed Alex about Cambridge Class having a MeetUp “host”. No response yet.
  
- XVII. Loon Mountain Games (Sept. 16-18) (**Alena**)
  - A. Merrill has received a note that contracts with Loon Mountain will go out soon.
  
- XVIII. Summer’s End (New Hampshire Highlands) (**Anne**)
  - A. The brochure is posted on the website, Roberta announced it at Cambridge Class.
  
- XIX. Bookstore (**Alena**)
  - A. No news from Laurie
  
- XX. Tartan Times (**Emily**) –update on hand-off to new editor
  - A. Linda will circulate a letter to the exec before sending it to membership.
  
- XXI. Class Liaisons
- XXII. Continuing business
  - A. Gender-free dance talk-throughs and directions, cont’d: Exec’s role-- Hands off? Leadership/ recommendations? Possible task force?
    - i. Linda thinks there needs to be a task force to gauge the climate of not only teachers, but also dancers. Exec should support the initiative and help teachers, dancers, etc. to make small changes, but not mandating application. Linda will talk to Mark.
    - ii. Perhaps construct a poll to dancers similarly to how Alex polled on covid restrictions.

**Class leaders Mtg:** Good ideas came out of it, and we think they may want to get together at least annually.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 31, 2023 7:15

*Optional reports:*

Archives (**Emily**) emailed Cathy, but hasn’t heard back ; Calendar (**Marsha**)

## **Liaisons for 2022-2023**

### **Officers**

President: Linda

VP: Marsha

Treasurer: Cathy

Secretary: Alena

### **Event liaisons**

ESCape: Connie

Demo team: Marsha

Nominating Committee: Marsha

Highland Ball: Marsha

TMC: Marsha

Membership: Cathy

Summer's End (NH H): Anne

Tartan Times: Emily

Archives: Emily

Bookstore: Alena

Scottish Sessions Pinewoods: Bill

Calendar: Marsha

NH Highland Games: Alena

Publicity: Alena

Website: David

Equipment: Connie

Concert: Linda

## **Class liaisons**

Great Barrington, MA: **Ted**

Limping along better than it had been, attendance changes often.

Northampton, MA: **Ted**

Preparing for Highland Ball. Not sure if they'll dance through June.

Albany, NY: **Ted**

All is well with in-person and hybrid classes. Appreciation for teaching team.

Greenland, NH: **Bill**

No report

Nashua, NH: **Bill**

No report

Kennebunk, ME: **Bill**

Looking forward to end of season party end of June.

Belfast, ME: **Anne**

Memorial day dance party – they will not host that dance, but wants to put together a party sometime in the summer.

Brunswick, ME: **Anne**

Excited about Annual fall dance party October 14<sup>th</sup>. Still getting new people each week, though they may not always come back.

Bucksport, ME: **Anne**

No news.

Lancaster, NH: **David**

Same as “White Mountain Scottish Country Dancers”

Fairlee, VT: **David**

No news is good news.

Cambridge, MA: **Emily**

Hosting AGM on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Covid policy went out earlier today. Lots of new dancers.

Bedford, MA: **Emily**

Still dancing weekly. Talk of a fall party had died down.

Salem, MA: **Connie**

No news from Salem

Stow, MA: **Connie**

Looking forward to dancing and the ball in May

Chelmsford, MA: **Connie**

Dancing continues.