

RSCDS Boston Branch
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 31 2023 7:15pm

Location: Zoom
for Zoom access use link in email OR call: 1-617 417 1621

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

Agenda

- A. Minutes from the previous meeting. Accepted.
- B. Treasurer's report (**Cathy**)
 - 1. This is an interim report. Pinewoods checks were deposited today.
 - 2. Highland ball just made it just over budget and lost \$181. May need to rein it in a bit more next year. Significant saves this year resulted from providing only cold food, so the catering staff didn't need to stay.
 - 3. Membership 226 members.
 - 4. Square fees are absorbed by branch. Square is becoming a popular way to pay for tickets. We show as an administrative expense and have never built it into budgets.
 - 5. Planting the seed to put some cash in a money market since rates have gone up. To be talked about in future.

New business/Scheduled items:

- C. Chairs for next year's Highland Ball News flash: MaryEllen and Sharon Gilmour have volunteered!
 - 1. Done!
- D. Chairs and proposed dates for Pinewoods '24
 - 1. Kiera & Marc will be happy to help out. Linda to speak with Mark about covid protocols for next year. Exec will make the call based on PCI next year.
- E. Finalize second TMC appointee (in addition to MaryEllen)
 - 1. Bill contacted Howard Lasnik, but have not received a commitment yet. Bill suggested that Marsha reach out the other names on the email list to talk about what is involved. Marsha will invite Beth Murray.
- F. Review most recent proposal re: membership fees for coming year—2024 fees are supposed to be published before AGM (per By-Laws)
 - 1. Square fees may need to be built in to event expenses (starting with Pinewoods).
 - 2. Tell the members what they are getting with their membership, including the square fees.
 - 3. Message to members that HQ is raising their rates, as we will also need to raise rates.
 - 4. Motion to raise \$62 for single, \$200 for couple benefactor. Seconded. Passed. This information will be shared at AGM
- G. AGM Prep, June 5, 2023, in person and on Zoom
 - 1. Arrive early to set up chairs, masks mandatory for dancing, not for meeting. If we bring refreshments, please also bring napkins, cups, etc.

- H. Scheduled reports from liaisons
- I. Teaching & Music Committee (**Marsha**)—PW Reel celebrations June 11 in Stowe
 - 1. Highland Ball went well.
 - 2. Need to come up with musicians for next year's ball. Point was made that Melrose is available to us May 11, 2024, but if we want to change to a smaller/less expensive venue we might need to change the date, and this might affect musician booking. Talk to MaryEllen and Sharon about who they might want for musicians, though apparently the decision comes to Exec.
- J. Boston Scottish Country Dancers (**Marsha**)
 - 1. Nothing to report
- K. Highland Ball (**Marsha**)
 - 1. Need more/better desserts for next year. Eliminating hot food saved around \$1,000.
 - 2. The 5-5-5 format of the dances seemed to go well and allowed time for walk-throughs.
- L. Nominating Committee (**Marsha**)
 - 1. Election on Monday. No other news.
- M. Fall 2023 Concert (**Linda**)
 - 1. Nothing to report at the moment. Will be applying for a grant to make it more affordable.
- N. ESCape (**Connie**)
 - 1. Planning is going well. We had sent out the original PCI covid policy to campers before it was clear that it was going to be revised--We've had a few people drop out, and some others express gratitude for taking the precautions seriously. We'll be discussing later this week whether we're going to change anything to be more in line with the updated PCI policy.
 - 2. We haven't had a committee meeting to discuss since Bill mentioned the proposed schedule change, but we've exchanged a couple of emails. I think the general sense is that we'd like to keep our regular week, but changing for one year wouldn't be the end of the world. One question is if we change for next year, would we definitely get our regular week back for the following year? Other thoughts are that it's really nice to be in between two weekend sessions, since they combine well to make a full week for a lot of people. A concern about moving to after Scottish Sessions is that we might lose some Scottish dancers, since ESCape is a nice warm up for Scottish, but trying to add another week AFTER dancing all Scottish for a week sounds exhausting.
- O. Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (**Bill**) Update on PCI Covid protocols?
 - 1. Debbie Jarvis, in her role as head of TMC preference for be Scottish to be 12-20th next year to accommodate Hanneke Cassel as music director, as well the summer holiday schedule for Pinewoods camp. Chris Jacobs, Executive Director of PCI) has been requested by Bill to Schedule Scottish in that time slot but has not yet agreed to it. She has to reschedule various sessions to meet the summer holiday schedule for Pinewoods Camp. Bill is communicating with Chris and finding out the needs of ESCape (Connie).

Linda to mention these dates to Kiera & Marc to see if that works for them as well.

2. Can we refund their deposit if they back-out due to not wanting to wear a mask, as opposed to being worried about getting sick.
 - i. Refund deposits? Voted: Deposits are non-refundable. 6 yes, 2 nay, 2 abstain.
 - ii. Paid full rate? Voted: Refund everything except the deposit. Unanimous “yes”.

P. Membership (**Cathy**)—Search for new chairs

1. The timing doesn’t work for Peter and Mary to continue as chairs of membership. Cathy is putting together a job description. The suggestion was made to make an announcement at the AGM on Monday. Cathy will reach out to Rebecca Gore to see if she is interested.
 - i. The database has limitations, we may need to buy a database for about \$350 per year.
 - ii. Marketing aspect to encourage folks to join the branch as members.

Q. Website (**David**): Vote on revised text of policies/procedures?

1. General consensus is that the revisions are approved. Motion made, seconded, voted.
2. There will be a new “History of the branch” on the website.

R. Equipment (**Connie**)

1. Nothing to report

S. Publicity (**Alena**)

1. Nothing to report

T. Loon Mountain Games (Sept. 16-18) (**Alena**)

1. Nothing to report

U. Summer’s End (New Hampshire Highlands) (**Anne**)

1. Nothing to report

V. Bookstore (**Alena**)

1. Nothing to report

W. Tartan Times (**Emily**) –update on hand-off to new editor

1. Barbara will be at the AGM with a meeting next week, and Cathy will begin Tartan Times in July. Next issue to be release on Sept. 1st.

X. Class Liaisons

Continuing business:

- A. Gender-free dance talk-throughs: Do we agree about our aspirations on this topic? If so, should we craft an “aspirational statement”? The topic will be among those discussed in the proposed revival of a teachers’ discussion group (a TMC initiative; inaugural meeting via Zoom to be led by Robert McOwen on June 10).
 - a. What frame of mind is Exec? Linda will send around an email to which exec can accept or decline.
- B. Don’t forget to vote!

Next Exec Comm meeting **June 28, 2023**—Changeover meeting, to welcome new Exec members and assign liaisons.

Optional reports:

Archives (Emily) ; Calendar (Marsha)

Great Barrington, MA: **Ted**

Northampton, MA: **Ted**

Class numbers are up a bit. One more month before summer break. Masks optional.

Albany, NY: **Ted**

Group is doing well with some new participants. Thankful for the dedication of teachers and run-of-show.

Greenland, NH: **Bill**

Continuing in person with small classes. Will break for summer.

Nashua, NH: **Bill**

Continuing in person with small classes.

Kennebunk, ME: **Bill**

Continuing in person with small classes.

Belfast, ME: **Anne**

Brunswick, ME: **Anne**

Breaks for summer after Downeast Fling (Kennebunk Dance). Hope many will attend

October 14th Dance Party in Topsham

Bucksport, ME: **Anne**

The class continues to meet each week. Last night we had 2 sets! We will enjoy hosting a joint class with the Belfast group next Monday. A much downsized Memorial Day celebration. Bucksport has a very merry and devoted class- who are not such beginners any more!

Lancaster, NH: **David**

No news.

Fairlee, VT: **David**

Continuing as before.

Cambridge, MA: **Emily**

Continuing to dance weekly.

Bedford, MA: **Emily**

Continuing to dance weekly.

Salem, MA: **Connie**

Nothing new to report.

Stow, MA: **Connie**

Regularly dancing. June 9th is ice cream party, June 11th is video-tape of Pinewoods Reel

Chelmsford, MA: **Connie**

Summer class party planned.

Liaisons for 2022-2023

Officers

President: Linda
VP: Marsha
Treasurer: Cathy
Secretary: Alena

Event liaisons

ESCape: Connie
Equipment: 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

Scottish Sessions Pinewoods: Bill

Calendar: Marsha

Bookstore: Alena
NH Highland Games: Alena
Publicity: Alena

Website: David

Concert: Linda

Class liaisons

Great Barrington, MA: Ted
Northampton, MA: Ted
Albany, NY: Ted

Greenland, NH: Bill
Nashua, NH: Bill
Kennebunk, ME: Bill

Belfast, ME: Anne
Brunswick, ME: Anne
Bucksport, ME: Anne

Lancaster, NH: David
Fairlee, VT: David

Cambridge, MA: Emily
Bedford, MA: Emily

Salem, MA: Connie
Stow, MA: Connie
Chelmsford, MA: Connie