

RSCDS Boston Branch
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 28, 2023 7:15 pm

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

Attendance: Linda McJannet, Alena Taylor, Anne Johnson, Marsha Byrnes, Connie Kent, Kat Dutton, David Grubb, Cathy Crabtree, Bill Card, Emily Russell. Ted was unable to join, but provided reports in advance.

AGENDA

1. Welcome to new member(s) and all: Please review updated Policies and Procedures https://rscdsboston.org/Policies_2023_05c.pdf
2. Minutes from the previous meeting - Approved
3. Treasurer's report (**Cathy**)
 - a. 229 members as of right now. We are complete with the known expenses, donations, etc for the Highland Ball. We ended with a very small shortfall. Pinewoods – ESCape staff fees have been paid. Next week Scottish staff fees will be prepared. Still receiving payments for Pinewoods. Workshop was the Pinewoods Reel taping. We brought in \$90 with minimal expenses.

New business/Scheduled items:

4. New liaison assignments
5. Updating the Who's Who section of the website, Exec and TMS, and Nom. Committee (Alena as keeper of records)
 - a. Linda couldn't find it on the newly arranged RSCDS website. It may not have been replaced. Use the one from Tartan Times and update accordingly. List the term length, etc (use TMC as example)
6. Second musician for TMC still needed: Possible candidates that Debbie endorsed: Susie Petrov, Catherine Miller, Barbara McOwen
 - a. Howard said no. Ask Susie first, then Barbara, then Catherine, then Dirk. Order approved by majority. Kat to ask Susie soon.
7. Brainstorm how to implement the new Social Media Committee: **Linda Postponed to next meeting. Think about who might be good for this committee.**

Description of new Social Media Committee:

The Executive Committee shall ensure that the Branch maintains a presence on social media platforms to advertise and promote events and classes. The work of posting to these platforms will be done by an ad-hoc committee of Branch members who will report to Exec periodically through a liaison. Exec will appoint replacements to the ad-hoc committee as needed. The platforms currently in use (2023) are Facebook and Meetup. Exec will decide whether to add other platforms or discontinue current ones. The committee members should not post about local events or classes without first consulting the appropriate contacts and organizers. Class

liaisons, or the committee, will periodically remind Branch classes of the availability of these platforms for advertising their classes.

Scheduled reports from liaisons

8. Teaching & Music Committee (**Marsha**)
 - a. New liaison will be Kat. 2024 Pinewoods discussions have begun. 2023 Gazette is being proofed now and they still need party hosts.
9. Boston Scottish Country Dancers (**Marsha**)
 - a. Update the webpage. No other news.
 - b. Linda and Cathy to talk to Laura and Andy about updates and new dancers
10. Highland Ball (**Marsha**)
 - a. Received email from new hosts, with lots of ideas. More to come in the upcoming months.
 - b. Exec is to decide on the band. For the Ball: The question was raised “Who does Mara want to play with, and do we need to budget for their travel as well as hers?” Mara may ask Beth Murray to play with her. Chairs of the ball will find out more information and pursue Mara. For the Welcome Dance: Torren was suggested.
11. Nominating Committee (**Marsha**)
 - a. No report.
12. Fall 2023 Concert (**Linda**)
 - a. Linda drafted a grant proposal to NH Scots Fund. Cathy is reviewing. Asking for a grant of \$1,200.
13. ESCape (**Connie**)
 - a. Starts in 5 days! 139 people signed up. 12 people have withdrawn – only a few for covid policies. Connie will coordinate with Cathy for any last minute payments.
14. Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (**Bill**)
 - a. Linda’s conversation with Marc and Keira about 2024. The outcome was that Marc and Keira would take the job. Approved by majority. Linda will confirm.
 - b. Scottish Sessions for 2024 will be Friday July 5 – Saturday July 13th. ESCape will be immediately prior.
15. Membership (**Cathy**) - Search for new chairs
 - a. 229 members as of today. Updated the application for next year and will make sure it is included in the Pinewoods packet and the jotform on website. If people join at or after Pinewoods, they are applying for next year.
 - b. The search for new chair continues, but Cathy is ok taking care of it for now. The job description has been created. Cathy to send to Meyer to post on the website. Circulating to members soon at or after Pinewoods. Cathy will create a short version and keep the longer version once we have interest.
16. Website (**David**)
 - a. Put the calendar on the top menu? David has suggested this recently to Meyer and will follow up.
17. Equipment (Connie)
 - a. No report

18. Publicity (**Alena**)
 - a. 179 members on Meetup. Alex wants to start up again in August for Cambridge class.
19. Loon Mountain Games (Sept. 15-17) (**Alena**)
 - a. We will be there for the NHHG weekend (**Sep 15-17**) with a booth promoting SCD and "try-it's" on all three days. On Friday afternoon, Patti Tillotson will lead a ceilidh dancing session. Merrill is also hoping to do a few flashmob type events on the Games grounds during the weekend. She will be getting notices out to recruit dancers for those.
 - b. Linda and Cathy will provide Merrill with materials for the booth.
20. Summer's End (formerly New Hampshire Highlands) (**Anne**)
 - a. Gary contacted Linda about a subsidy. They are struggling to get sign-ups for this event. Fairlee event, committee was generally in favor of providing some monetary support, to be repaid if the event turned a profit, it should be explicitly noted that this support, if given, should not set a precedent but is part of pandemic recovery and/or change-of-venue.
 - b. Why are they not a branch event? This is a question worth looking into. Exec agrees that perhaps it could be a branch event going forward.
 - c. Linda will respond to Gary to follow up and keep exec in the loop.
21. Bookstore (**Alena**)
 - a. No report.
22. Tartan Times (**Emily**) –update on hand-off to new editor?
 - a. Barbara mentioned the possibility of having back-issues on the website, and if so, who should be responsible to make that happen?
 - b. Consensus is that it is no longer only available to members, and should be posted in the resource tab. Agreed. David and Emily will work with Meyer and Barbara and will move forward.

Class Liaisons' reports

23. See appendix

Maine Highland Games – August 19th. Dancing and workshops through the day. Please join!

Continuing business:

24. Gender-free terminology: Linda still working on statement of aspiration for discussion.

Thanks to departing Exec member(s): Bill Card will receive a certificate of thanks next time they are in person.

Next Exec Comm meeting, **August 30, 2023**, 7:15 via Zoom

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

Liaisons for 2022-2023 (updated 6/28/23)
Changes have been highlighted

Officers

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

Publicity: Alena

Website: David

Concert: Linda

Event and Department Liaisons

ESCape: Connie
Equipment: Connie

Demo team: Marsha
Nominating Committee: Marsha
Highland Ball: Marsha
TMC: **Kat**

Membership: Cathy

Summer's End (formerly NHH): Anne

Tartan Times: Emily
Archives: Emily

Scottish Sessions Pinewoods: **Kat**

Calendar: Marsha

Bookstore: **Emily**
NH Highland Games: **Marsha**

Class Liaisons

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

Greenland, NH: **Anne**
Nashua, NH: **Anne**
Kennebunk, ME: **Anne**

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

Lancaster, NH: David
Fairlee, VT: David

Cambridge, MA: **Kat**
Bedford, MA: Emily

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

APPENDIX

Class Liaisons

Great Barrington, MA: Ted

We've had to cancel a couple of times in June due to lack of a quorum (six). With many names on the roster, it is frustrating to be struggling in this way. Many of the newer dancers who attended once or twice haven't been back, but a few of these keep checking in to say they intend to, once they get done with . . . (fill in the blank). On a brighter note, Susan Eisley, who taught the GB class for a number of years, has agreed to teach the class while I'm away for the next two classes.

Northampton, MA: Ted

Ilene Goldstein reports that this Thursday is their last class until September. For the past three weeks, two longtime class members, who work at Sturbridge Village, brought six co-workers to class. This has presented some teaching challenges, and only one of the six seems like a long-term possibility (a Smith student interning at Sturbridge).

Albany, NY: Ted

Lois reports that the class will continue through the summer, thanks to a dedicated team of teachers and the hybrid format. The class has been trying out many new and interesting dances.

Greenland, NH: Bill

Summer – no classes

Nashua, NH: Bill

Summer – no classes

Kennebunk, ME: Bill

Dance party went well. Maybe 20-25 enthusiastic people were there. Summer – no classes.

Belfast, ME: Anne

Having an informal party on July 4th.

Brunswick, ME: Anne

Summer – no classes

Bucksport, ME: Anne

No report.

Lancaster, NH: David

Party was fun, many Fairlee dancers came, and the Lancaster dancers were glad to see guests from other classes.

Fairlee, VT: David

Dancing through the summer. Preparing for a demonstration

Cambridge, MA: Emily

A couple weeks off for summer but will start again after Pinewoods.

Bedford, MA: Emily

Dancing through the summer. No report

Salem, MA: Connie

Tomorrow is last class for summer.

Stow, MA: Connie

Summer – no classes

Chelmsford, MA: Connie

No report