

RSCDS Boston Branch
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 29, 2024, 7:15 pm

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

Attendance: Linda McJannet, Alena Taylor, Marsha Byrnes, Kat Dutton, Cathy Crabtree, Ted Randolph, David Grubb, Emily Russell, Connie Kent

Agenda

- A. Minutes from the previous meeting (**Alena**) – not finished yet. Alena to send out with this meeting. To be approved next month.
- B. Treasurer's report (**Cathy**)
 - a. Pinewoods ESCape is doing a great job in getting their campers to pay. 1 payment has been made to Pinewoods. The second will be next week. The final payment happens after camp.
 - b. No new members in May. AGM fee hasn't yet been paid. Insurance rates have gone off the charts nationwide. This includes RSCDS Boston Branch. We are stuck with this increase, as few insurance companies cover small non-profit organizations.
- C. Reports from class liaisons
 - Great Barrington, MA (**Ted**) They will take a break for the summer as of 5/15. Talking about establishing a beginner class as a 4 or 6 session class.
 - Albany, NY (**Ted**) The Fall Frolic October 26/27th. They've hired Terpsichore for the music.
 - Greenland, NH (**Anne**) Still struggling to have enough dancers. Their current site requires them to pay a month in advance with no refund for cancelled classes. May be looking for a different site. Last class on June 4 until next fall.
 - Nashua, NH (**Anne**) Still have to send out a headcount email each week, sometimes resulting in the need to cancel class. They take the month of July off.
 - Kennebunk, ME (**Anne**) Has requested and approved for event subsidy for this weekend. They have 3 new dancers that joined the group in May. Last class June 2, party walk-throughs evening of June 7. Will resume classes in September.
 - Belfast, ME (**Anne**) Party was fantastic. They continue to meet throughout the summer.
 - Brunswick, ME (**Anne**) Last class will be June 6, resuming in September. Fall Dance Party is scheduled for October 19th at the Topsham Grange Hall. Musicians will be Katie McNally and Beth Murray.
 - Bucksport, ME (**Anne**) Meets throughout the summer. Going strong with 9-16 dancers a week.
 - Fairlee, VT (**David**) Had a party, no report. Cathy was in attendance.

Cambridge, MA (**Kat**) No formal report. End of season party is June 24th, then 2 weeks off. Hosting AGM on 6/10
Bedford, MA (**Emily**) Class continues
Salem, MA (**Connie**) New dance space in Beverly. A few new dancers, and hoping for more. Hosting dancers welcome to join for Salem Arts Festival. Alena to post on RSCDS Boston calendar.
Stow, MA (**Connie**) 2 4-couple sets. 6/14 will be end of season.
Chelmsford, MA (**Connie**) Possible new dancers, class
Northampton, MA (**Ted**) No end of year party. Last class for the summer is end of June.

Scheduled business

- D. Final EXEC review of survey on gender-neutral terminology (**Linda/Kat**)
 - a. Please respond to the survey by June 17. Debbie will be added to the signatories. Kat will compile results. To be enacted when the new season begins. Class leaders to share with their class lists (non-members). Reminders should be sent.
- E. AGM Prep –ballot and documents to circulate (**Alena**)
 - a. This should go out today. Tomorrow at the latest, Alena to print and mail the list from Anne. Request reimbursement from Cathy for postage. ALENA – bring refreshments to AGM.
- F. Nominating Committee—still no candidate!! (**Linda**)
 - a. Susan Eisley may be willing to act in a temporary capacity. She is willing to commit for one year. Vote approved.

Reports from committee and event liaisons

- G. Teaching & Music Committee (**Kat**)
 - a. Discussed Highland Ball, Pinewoods finances, starting to look at surveys. Prepping for Pinewoods 2025 teachers and musicians.
- H. Boston Scottish Country Dancers (**Marsha**)
 - a. No report at this time.
- I. Highland Ball (**Marsha**)
 - a. Ball review will be shared at the June meeting. Preliminary finances look like we have cleared the ball. Total of 102 tickets were sold, most of which were purchased at the last minute.
- J. Nominating Committee (**Marsha**) See above.
- K. Fall 2024 Concert/Ceilidh (**Cathy**)
 - a. Contract and deposit complete. Next step is to put save-the-date on the calendar. November 24th
- L. ESCape (**Connie**)
 - a. Planning is going well. Working through the waitlist. Thinking about a lottery for next year, to be decided later.
- M. Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (**Kat**) See TMC report.
- N. Membership (**Anne**)
 - a. Final decision on wording of family membership. Family (2 adults and all children under 18). Branch would cover the HQ cost for youths (12-18).

List children's names and ages. No more "junior", as it was a headquarters term, not a branch term. Change to "young adult". Linda will make the changes and send to Anne. This does not need to be changed by the AGM, but will be included in the Pinewoods packets.

- O. Website (**David**) and Calendar (**Marsha**)
 - a. delete or update "List of Classes" pdf? Clarify Karen and Meyer's idea for a flyer QR code or template? vs postcards? (*Don't think we settled this last time?*) Make post card available on the website, with a note to update annually. Linda to talk to Jeremy.
- P. Equipment (**Connie**)
 - a. Equipment rental: Classes to perhaps provide compensation for the person transporting and in charge of equipment. Connie to request feedback from Tom.
- Q. Publicity and Social Media Committee (**Alena**)
 - a. Talk to website people about "click here for..." keeping up-to-date materials and handouts.
 - b. Linda to make an appeal at AGM.
 - c. Kat will help remind me to schedule meetings.
- R. Loon Mountain Games (3rd weekend Sept) (**Marsha**)
 - a. Merrill has signed the contract of our promotional tents and at least 1 try-it each day. Will also do 1 day at the VT Games.
- S. Bookstore (**Emily**) No report.
- T. Tartan Times (**Linda**)
 - a. Hoping to get the next issue out soon. Pinewoods focused with great articles.

Continuing business: None

New business: None

Next mtg: Read policies/procedures, Ball review, Pinewoods final push.

Adjournment

Next Meeting: Changeover meeting, June 26, 2024, at 7:15 PM