

RSCDS Boston Branch 2024-25
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes for December
Wednesday, January 8, 2025, 7:15 pm

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

Attendance: Linda McJannett, Marsha Byrnes, Kat Dutton, Dave Ward, Robert McOwen,
Connie Kent, Cathy Crabtree, Alena Taylor
Missing: Emily Russell, Anne Johnson

Agenda

1. Minutes from the previous meeting (**Alena**)
 - a. Approved.
2. Treasurer's report (**Cathy**)
 - a. January is usually a relatively slow month. Cathy will make the payment to headquarters in the next couple of days (approx. \$6k). The CD will mature in February. We agreed to roll over the principal to another year.
 - b. The unaccounted-for CDs from the Concert were cleared by the band, and we are not required to pay. The date for the concert worked well just before Thanksgiving, looking to do that again this year. Checking with Arts at the Armory.
 - c. Nashua class requested music subsidy for their January party, they are eligible, and now retroactively approved by exec.
3. Reports from Class liaisons
 - a. Great Barrington, MA: Emily (**Ted Randolph**) Class news is simply that we have had a holiday break for three weeks, but will resume tomorrow. I expect light attendance, but no cancellation. The party is Saturday. I have invited the two nearest classes to attend, Albany and Noho, but haven't ever seen the point of spreading the word further. Couldn't hurt though, I suppose! At this late date it's probably not worth the trouble, though. I will consider it for next time!
 - b. Northampton, MA: Emily (**Ilene Goldstein**) No report
 - c. Albany, NY: Emily (**Barb Bemis and Lois New**) No report
 - d. Bedford, MA: Emily (**Heather Day**) Party was small but fun. Catherine Miller and Terry Traub played for us, and there were 7 dancers from other classes who were able to join us to dance. Susie Long and Rosemary Jackson with some help from regular class members did a great job on decorations, and we were able to have munchies on a table outside the dance room. Yesterday I had the first class of the season, with 12-13 dancers (Peter and Mary O came with young Zach, so took turns in babysitting and dancing). Two relative newbies enjoyed the very easy dances, although there were quite a lot of hands across figures.

- e. Cambridge, MA: Robert (**Alex**) no news.
- f. Somerville, MA: (**Kat**) Gender-free class is humming along nicely. Had their first complete newbie from outside the community. Next class is 1/16 and 1/30. There are currently 8 members.
- g. Greenland, NH: Dave Met yesterday for 1st time this year, a lot of no-shows. Expecting full classes.
- h. Nashua, NH: Dave (**Loren**) New Years Day party was successful. Thanks to those who assisted them.
- i. Lancaster, NH: Dave k (**Bill Tobin**) no news.
- j. Kennebunk/Brunswick, ME: Anne are just resuming classes after a two week holiday break. Tonight's class in Kennebunk will be a Twelfth Night celebration.
- k. Belfast/Bucksport, ME: Anne (**Dawn Little**) hosted a Hogmanay dance party on January 1st in Bucksport. Dawn reports that there were 13 couples dancing, and the party went well.
- l. Fairlee, VT: Connie (**Gary Apfel**) 3 members attended other parties. Wed classes have 10-14 people, and graduate students.
- m. Salem, MA: Connie (**MaryEllen Scannell**) No news. Class starting this week.
- n. Stow, MA: Connie (**Vickery**) Last met Dec. 13th. 7 couples. Will meet again on 1/10
- o. Chelmsford, MA: Connie (**Rebecca**) No news.

Scheduled business

- 4. Pinewoods Scottish Sessions Budget Proposal & Registration (**Marc & Keira Hartstein**)
 - a. 3% increase from PCI this year. Poor attendance last year. Insurance went up this year. Crossover lunch was more expensive than anticipated (ESCAPE into Scottish I, and all campers from Scottish I into Scottish II) No news suggesting major changes in Covid restrictions from last year.
 - b. Teacher and Music budgets similar to last year. Please add the \$500 to the music director. Welcome dance MCs to receive financial acknowledgement. Propose \$50 to all MCs for MC portion and \$25 for all MC classes. Approved.
 - c. General expenses are up a bit due to cost of printing and cost of covid tests for staff members.
 - d. If we increase our rates by 3%, is an increase by \$20, \$30, and \$40 (Session I, Session II, both sessions) It may be helpful to increase our rates by 5% to help offset the number of beds not sold, but introduce a youth discount of \$50 per session for those 35 and under, likely to affect around 10 to 15 people. Discount ok to be stacked with other discounts. Youth (under 18) rates from PCI will remain the same as last year.

- e. Maybe consider a sliding scale for a subset, or others in the future. Likely to discuss in future years. Or perhaps \$50 discount for ages 13-30, and \$25 discount for ages 31-35 (to be consistent with RSCDS youth age). Request from chairs to keep it simple this year.
 - f. Our recommendation for Camp Fees is Proposal 2 (5% increase over 2024) with Child (0-12) rates calculated the same as last year. We propose adding a Youth Discount of \$50/session using the RSCDS definition of Youth, covering ages 13-35. As an adult camp, PCI charges us the same rate for anyone aged 13+. We estimate the number of Youth under this definition in 2024 at 10-15 campers, so we risk about \$1,500 to implement this but it's something we can easily and aggressively promote to both improve attendance and further support recruiting and retaining future generations. Approved!
 - g. Hoping to open registration within the next couple of weeks. Other FB and flyers/postcards will go to classes as well.
 - h. The party budget was ok at current attendance. Party budget proposed to increase to \$250 per party if mean attendance exceeds 130 to ensure enough food for guests. Approved.
5. Review equipment needs—and status of things left at the former Brookline Class's venue (**Emily**)
- a. No news.
 - b. Perhaps opening a CD library? No decision made.

Scheduled reports from liaisons

6. Teaching & Music Committee (**Kat**)
- a. Focused on Highland Ball – program approved. Pinewoods – how to attract more people and musicians.
7. Boston Scottish Country Dancers (**Marsha**)
- a. Rehearsals moving along, dancing at Burns Night British Officers Club later this month. Then thinking about NEFFA
8. Highland Ball (**Marsha**) - Remind Dawn that her budget is due for our “January” meeting (Jan 29th)
- a. Working on getting budget ready for the next exec.
9. Nominating Committee (**Marsha**)
- a. There could be a couple of people interested. More news at a later date.
10. Fall Concert (**Cathy**)
- a. See treasurer notes.
 - b. Working to secure venue.
11. ESCape (**Connie**)
- a. Registration is to open in the next week or two.

12. Scottish Sessions Pinewoods 2025 (**Kat**)

- a. See notes above.

13. Membership (**Anne**)

- a. I have sent Meyer two email lists for the new membership - the first one is everyone who renewed or joined from July - November. The second is additional members that joined/renewed in December. Meyer didn't do what he used to do - unenrolling everyone from receiving emails and then re-enrolling with only the current membership. That means that everyone who was on the list last year but has not renewed this year is continuing to get emails from RSCDS Boston.
- b. I am working on the 2024-2025 Directory which should be in the hands of Meyer and John (for hard copies) by the end of this week.
- c. I would like to update the membership landing page on our website to include a bit about benefits/advantages of joining. Not sure if space is limited? By looking at other pages, it seems I could add quite a bit. I will send a draft once I find some time to do one!

14. Website and Calendar (**Robert**)

- a. Nothing to report

15. Equipment (**Connie**)

- a. Thom attended Nashua party and received reimbursement.
- b. Connie will ask if we need any more or different equipment.

16. Publicity and Social Media (**Alena**)

- a. Linda to send email asking for media specialists from the membership.
- b. CCAE declined having Scottish dance class.
- c. Alena's friend declined being able to take charge of Social Media for RSCDS Boston.
- d. Everyone should keep in mind/be on the lookout for town or city celebrations (e.g., Winchester's Town Day) that often feature dance or music performances and have booths for non-profit organizations to promote their mission

17. Loon Mountain Games 2025 (**Marsha**)

- a. Merrill has no report.

18. Bookstore (**Emily**) No report.

19. Tartan Times (**Linda**) Next issue is March 1st "Class Act".

Optional reports: Archives (Emily/Linda)
Receiving materials for the archives.

Continuing business

20. Update on sensitive issue from PW Scottish Sessions (Linda and Marc)

- a. Drafted and sent a letter to those involved in the sensitive issues. Waiting for responses.

New business

None.

Adjourned 8:53

Next Meeting **January 29, 2025, 7:15 PM**

Liaisons for 2025-2026

Officers

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

Event and Other Liaisons

ESCape: Connie
Equipment: Connie

Boston Scottish Country Dancers: Marsha
Nominating Committee: Marsha
Highland Ball: Marsha
NH Highland Games: Marsha

TMC: Kat
Scottish Sessions Pinewoods: Kat

Membership: Anne

Summer's End: Anne

Tartan Times: Linda

Bookstore: Emily

Website and Calendar: Robert

Publicity: Alena

Concert: Cathy

Class Liaisons

Great Barrington, MA: Emily
Northampton, MA: Emily
Albany, NY: Emily
Bedford, MA: Emily

Cambridge, MA: Robert

Greenland, NH: Dave
Nashua, NH: Dave
Lancaster, NH: Dave

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

Fairlee, VT: Connie
Salem, MA: Connie
Stow, MA: Connie
Chelmsford, MA: Connie