

# **RSCDS Boston Branch 2024-25**

## **Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, March 26, 2025, 7:15 pm

Location: Zoom

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

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

Missing: Robert McOwen

### **Agenda:**

1. Minutes from the previous meeting (Alena)
  - a. Repertoire needs to be spelled correctly under the Albany class
  - b. Interest rate of CD rollover is actually 4.01%
  - c. Approved.
2. Treasurer's report (Cathy)
  - a. ESCape and Pinewoods fees are coming in earlier than usual this year.
  - b. Highland Ball has sold 15 tickets to the ball so far. Bulk purchases last year were in April.
  - c. 3 new members in the last couple of days.
  - d. Marketing expenses include replenishing the supply of bracelets. Insurance invoices are coming up, up 3% from last year, and is reasonable.
  - e. Square fees are higher due to more online purchases for tickets and camp.
  - f. Highland ball expenses – rent has been paid.
  - g. Pinewoods expenses – plane tickets have been reimbursed.

### 3. Reports from Class Liaisons

Great Barrington, MA: Emily (**Ted Randolph**) 8 in class, 6 this week, a new dancer has joined sporadically.

Northampton, MA: Emily (**Ilene Goldstein**) Planning the anniversary party commences. A couple of classes were cancelled due to low attendance. Party not yet on the calendar, Emily to follow up.

Albany, NY: Emily (**Barb Bemis** and **Lois New**) No report received.

Bedford, MA: Emily (**Heather Day**) Nothing specific, 10 or so dancers each week.

Cambridge, MA: Robert (**Alex Bowers**) I don't have anything special to report to Exec. In general, things are going well with the class. The End of Season party will be on 23rd June, and we'll take a break on 6/30 and 7/7 for Pinewoods.

Somerville, MA: Kat (**Kat Dutton**) Trucking along. Between 9 and 12 dancers. 2 sets last week! Flyers were put out at contra dance, and a few dancers came because of that. June 19<sup>th</sup> is potentially a party date.

Greenland, NH: Dave (**Dave Ward**) Meeting regularly. 5 or 6 dancers at the moment. Hoping for a couple of new dancers in April.

Nashua, NH: Dave (**Loren**) Nothing to report. Meeting regularly between 6-11 dancers.

Lancaster, NH: Dave (**Bill Tobin**) No report received.

Kennebunk/Brunswick, ME: Anne (**Anne Johnson**) Downeast Fling is June 14<sup>th</sup>. Program has been released. Annual Fall dance part set for Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>. Classes as usual.

Belfast/Bucksport, ME: Anne (**Dawn Little**) Memorial Day weekend party coming up May 24<sup>th</sup> in Belfast.

Scarborough, ME: Anne

Fairlee, VT: Connie (**Gary Apfel**) Prepping for the Highland Ball and Spring Fling. Music subsidy requested. Approved.

Salem, MA: Connie (**MaryEllen Scannell**) Class continues, planning for Pinewoods Ball

Stow, MA: Connie (**Vickery**) no news.

Chelmsford, MA: Connie (**Rebecca**) 2 set + turnout at last class. Planning August party.

#### **Scheduled business:**

4. Date for Annual General Meeting (June 2 or June 9) Exec decided **June 9<sup>th</sup>** will be Annual General Meeting, also pub night.
5. Candidates to serve on the Nominating Committee—Exec appoints
  - a. MaryEllen will be leaving, and Susan was a 1-year appointment – Marsha will follow up to see if she would like to be elected. See more below for suggestions.
6. Mechanism for checking in with long-term Chairs and volunteers; identifying candidates for when it's time to pass the torch—role of liaisons?
  - a. Most of these people are liaisons to Exec, Kat suggested part of the beginning of the year check-in at the Exec changeover. Perhaps take them out to coffee, phone, or zoom. Maybe send a card or flowers? This cost can be reimbursed.

#### **Scheduled reports from liaisons:**

7. Teaching & Music Committee (**Kat**): Replacements for Debbie Jarvis and Marc Hartstein for 2025-28—Suggestions from current committee members?
  - a. Robert suggested Clara Stefanov-Wagner or Terry Traub as musicians and Ted Randolph or Laura DeCesare as teachers?
  - b. Kat reports that Marc Harstein will continue for another term. Debbie does need to be replaced by a musician. TMC doesn't have any strong suggestions yet. Linda suggested Beth Murray.
  - c. Publicity, Ball, Pinewoods
8. Boston Scottish Country Dancers (**Marsha**)

- a. Working on NEFFA, Dance for World Community events upcoming. Practice is fun!
- 9. Highland Ball (**Marsha**)
  - a. Cathy has been working with Dawn. Working with caterer. Working on different format for brunch – at a park pavilion with electricity, with bathrooms, but no kitchen. Dancing on the lawn. Dirk & friends for musicians, waiting to hear about MC option. Working on publicity and getting the word out. Are class leaders sending invites to their own class emailing list? Spread the word!
- 10. Nominating Committee (**Marsha**) Success in finding candidates to stand for office?
  - a. Robert thinks the Nominating Committee should consist of individuals who are central in the Branch and know a lot of people. I don't think the Committee requires a lot of meetings, so I might suggest individuals who have been in major positions but are not currently over-committed. Maybe Jeremy (who was Branch President), Charles (who was TMC Chair), or even Debbie (if she is coming off TMC where she was Chair).
  - b. The committee suggested 3 people willing to stand on exec. Bios and pictures due to Alena, MaryEllen will reach out.
- 11. Fall Concert (**Cathy**)
  - a. Nothing to report. Waiting for contract from the Armory. Featured guest contracts are completed.
- 12. ESCape (**Connie**)
  - a. Currently 27 people on waiting list, collecting contracts, and callers.
- 13. Scottish Sessions Pinewoods 2025 (**Kat**)
  - a. Acceptance emails have gone out; 19 on Session I waitlist. 5 spots still available for session II.
  - b. Pinewoods 2026 a couple of teachers/music directors have been chosen.
- 14. Membership (**Anne**)
  - a. 230 current branch members.
  - b. RSCDS headquarters membership database – asked us to look to see who is on our list but hasn't renewed since 2023 or 2024. Anne was able to reach out to a few people, but about 34 people who haven't renewed yet from last year, some of which are musicians. 17 people haven't been renewed since 2023. Anne will provide the list to Exec; in case we know someone and can reach out to remind them to renew or let her know if they have moved away.
- 15. Website and Calendar (**Robert**)
  - a. Website: Recall that Linda had noticed some inaccurate or out-of-date class info on the Branch website. I asked all Exec members who are liaisons for Branch classes to ask their contacts to check their class info on the Branch website and send any updates/corrections directly to Meyer. (I decided to have them send changes directly to Meyer rather than go through me so they would always feel free to ask Meyer to update info rather than wait for me to ask them. Meyer approved of this strategy.) I just checked with Meyer, and he received just one class update, namely from Great Barrington. Please reach out if you have not yet contacted your liaisons.

- b. Calendar: Due to Karen Mahoney's request that we advertise the Scots Charitable Ball on April 5, Linda asked me to add it to the Branch Calendar. Jeremy had given me editing privileges, but this was the first time I had made a change to the Calendar. It went smoothly, so I sent the link to Karen. She was pleased but asked if I could add a link for Tickets, which I was also able to do. (Barbara and I plan to attend the event to support them because they have been supportive of our Concert/Ceilidh.)
- 16. Equipment (**Connie**) – No report
- 17. Publicity and Social Media (**Alena**)
  - a. Class leaders don't seem to know what they need. They do want help, but are unsure of what help they need.
  - b. Possibly Eventbrite or FB pages for each class. Liaisons, please check in again.
  - c. Linda will continue working on last month's request.
- 18. Loon Mountain Games 2025 (**Marsha**) – no news yet. Expecting one shortly.
- 19. Bookstore (**Emily**)
  - a. Bookstore will be at Pinewoods.
- 20. *Tartan Times* (**Linda**)
  - a. Spring issue will be going out via email shortly, paper version has already gone out.
- 21. Archives (**Emily**) –take over correspondence with Elizabeth Slomba at UNH?
  - a. Physical archives will be held at the discretion UNH. As long as there aren't serious changes from previous agreements, and we are aware that we will not receive anything they don't want to keep, then we are ready to submit the terms letter signed by Linda as President. Emily will reach out and schedule a pick/up.

**Continuing business:**

- 22. Update on discussions re: behavior policy and Pinewoods
  - a. Topics are either resolved or in the process of being resolved.

**New business:**

- 23. Membership rates for next year will be discussed next month.

Adjourned 8:48pm

Next Meeting: **April 30, 2025, 7:15 PM**

## **Liaisons for 2025-2026**

### **Officers**

President: Linda

VP: Marsha

Treasurer: Cathy

Secretary: Alena

Concert: Cathy

### **Class Liaisons**

### **Event and Other Liaisons**

ESCape: Connie

Equipment: Connie

Great Barrington, MA: Emily

Northampton, MA: Emily

Albany, NY: Emily

Bedford, MA: Emily

Boston Scottish Country Dancers: Marsha

Nominating Committee: Marsha

Highland Ball: Marsha

NH Highland Games: Marsha

Cambridge, MA: Robert

Somerville, MA: Kat

TMC: Kat

Scottish Sessions Pinewoods: Kat

Greenland, NH: Dave

Nashua, NH: Dave

Lancaster, NH: Dave

Membership: Anne

Kennebunk, ME: Anne

Belfast, ME: Anne

Brunswick, ME: Anne

Bucksport, ME: Anne

Summer's End: Anne

*Tartan Times*: Linda

Bookstore: Emily

Fairlee, VT: Connie

Salem, MA: Connie

Stow, MA: Connie

Chelmsford, MA: Connie

Website and Calendar: Robert

Publicity: Alena