

**RSCDS Boston Branch**  
**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**  
Wednesday, March. 25, 2026 7:00 pm

Location: Zoom

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

**Attendance:** Linda McJannet, Anne Johnson, Robert McOwen, Hana Lang, Kat Dutton, Cathy Crabtree, Karen Sollins, David Ward

- I. Business:
  - A. Minutes (**Alena**) Approved.
  - B. Treasurer's report (**Cathy**)
    - i. Relatively quiet month for treasury, collecting money from ESCape, Pinewoods, and the Highland Ball
    - ii. Administrative expenses: insurance renewal this time of year. This went up 3% from last year.
    - iii. We've paid out 4 music subsidies so far this fiscal year.
  - C. Reports from Class Liaisons

**Jim Savitt**

*Great Barrington, MA:* (**Ted Randolph**) fielding a class of at least three couples most weeks. Class this week -- Thursday -- will draw from the list of 26 dances taught so far in 2026.

*Northampton, MA:* (**Ilene Goldstein**) No report at this time.

*Albany, NY:* (**Lois New & Barb Bemis**) Flurry Festival SCD offerings, reported on last month, have generated interest among some English dancers in extending their skills to SCD. Two SCD couples act as informal ambassadors to the ECD group and encourage some the English dancers to try SCD. Thanks go to Exec for providing supplemental funding to support the musicians, Peter Macfarlane and Beth Murray. Lois has begun a monthly Saturday "series" focusing on trickier dances to support dancers attending other events. There have been three of these sessions -- one for Dance Flurry dances, one for some dancers attending the Winter School in Pitlochery, and the most recent for a couple heading to Torquay for a "Scottish Country Dancing and Walking Holiday" event.

*Guilderland, NY:* (**Bethany Wright**) Continuing Ed class has 8 still attending out of 11 dancers who registered (2 dropped out, 1 is on medical leave but

would like to continue when she recovers). This session will conclude on April 20. They're looking to do another session in the late spring or summer, but may need to change the venue. The Continuing Education program has been good for recruiting and a few dancers have begun to attend Lois' class. There is some discussion about utilizing the Continuing Ed program as rolling recruitment vehicle or possibly cultivating the group to bring them to the next level. They may consider a combination of approaches.

### **Kat Dutton**

Somerville, MA: (**Kat Dutton**) We continue to have more than a set of dancers most week and to embrace our ethos of "do hard things badly" by doing delightfully challenging dances. We created class buttons just in time for the scholarship ball which was the first outside-of-our-class dance for one of our dancers who's been dancing about a year now. She had a delightful time and felt extremely welcomed by the rest of the branch!

### **Hana Lang**

Chelmsford, MA: (**Rebecca Gore**) Class met March 6 with two sets with live music. Grateful for the town council for helping fund music. August 8<sup>th</sup> . Summer Party. Requesting a music subsidy. Voted, approved.

Bedford, MA: (**Heather Day**) No news

Fairlee, VT: (**Gary Apfel**) Dancers have been busy. Dawn was MC for the SCDA Benefit dance. 2 dancers are members of the team competing next month. They would like to request a subsidy for the Spring Fling. Voted, approved.

### **Robert McOwen**

Cambridge, MA: (**Alex Bowers**) No report.

### **Cathy Crabtree**

Stow, MA: (**Vickery Trinkaus-Randall**) Wasn't able to attend, but generally has 2 classes per month.

### **Dave Ward**

Greenland, NH: (**Merrill Henderson**) on and off for March due to health and travel. Expecting 1 or 2 new people next week.

Nashua, NH: (**Loren Wright**) Consistently have 6 to 8 dancers. No report.

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

### **Anne Johnson**

Kennebunk, ME: (**Merrill Henderson**) Sporadic meetings due to weather. Had a new dancer this past week. DownEast Fling June 20th in Kennebunk at 2:30pm at a new venue, but same vicinity.

Belfast, ME: (**Dawn Little**) A lot of cancelations due to weather. Received videos where they handed Dave his award.

Brunswick, ME: (**Anne Johnson**) Meeting regularly with avg 10-12 dancers. 3 new dancers to attend tomorrow. Visitors have been sporadic. Dance Party scheduled for Oct. 10th.

Bucksport, ME: (**Dawn Little**) Memorial Day party is scheduled for 5/23 evening dance party.

Karen Sollins:

Salem, MA: (**MaryEllen Scannell**) typically 1 set of dancers. Working on dances for the Highland Ball programs.

- II. Scheduled Business:
  - A. Date for AGM—June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Approved.
  - B. Review of membership rates (**Cathy**) Postponed to April meeting.
  - C. Update on TMC, Nominating Committee, Exec at-large candidates, and new Pinewoods Camp representative
    - i. Jim will be leaving executive committee. His role will also need to be filled and needs to be on the ballot in June.
    - ii. We are set for TMC.
    - iii. Need two people for Nominating Committee. Linda is one of them, but we need to find a second person.
    - iv. Need two additional Executive Committee at-large members.
    - v. Need one Pinewoods Camp representative.
    - vi. Start drafting meeting documents that do not have names but invite nominations for the ballot sooner than later.
  - D. Proposed adjustment of agendas for AGM and SAGM to distribute reports more evenly and logically (**Cathy**)
    - i. Voted, approved! Thank you Cathy!
  
- III. Reports from liaisons.
  - A. Teaching & Music Committee (**Kat**)
    - i. Met last night. Highland Ball is humming along. Pinewoods discussions for next year. – see below.
  
  - B. Boston Scottish Country Dancers (**Karen**)
    - i. NEFFA prep is going well. Dances chosen, choreography is complete.

- ii. 3 SCD classes on the schedule
- iii. Boston Scottish Fiddle Club is giving a concert

C. Highland Ball (**Karen**)

- i. Preparations are going well.

D. North American Scottish Country Dance Festival (**Karen**)

- i. Weekend rehearsal went well. Almost full attendance, hospitality provided. Experienced teachers provided feedback. One of the teams performed at the intermission of the Scholarship dance.
- ii. Working on venue, setup, costume, other logistics

E. Nominating Committee (**Karen**)

- i. Suggestions have been sent, but they haven't said whether there are other candidates.

F. Fall Concert (**Cathy**)

- i. Contract with musicians is now signed. \$1500 fixed fee \$300 travel, and 50% of any surplus.
- ii. The Regent in Arlington sounds like our best bet, though we don't have a contract yet.

G. Sheep Shearing Festival (**Cathy**) on April 25th in Waltham 10-5 rain or shine.

- i. 6 people lined up to dance so far. Time slot is 11-12.
- ii. Sound equipment will not be provided. They do have electricity. Unsure of live music or recorded.

H. ESCape (**Kat**)

- i. Acceptances sent. Waitlist is now 59. Kat is stepping down from teaching the basic Scottish class after 2026.
- ii. If they are willing, perhaps send the Session II Scottish invite to the waiting list.

I. Pinewoods Scottish Sessions (**Kat**)

- i. Session I is full with no waitlist, Session II has space. Looking for volunteers for parties, etc. Class schedule is set. Evening programs are set. Waiting for name of sound person. Co-chairs went to PCI meeting.
- ii. Lads I was crunched by a tree. Expectation is that it will be available this summer for campers. Bookstore is moving into program center this year.
- iii. PCI is providing compostable party supplies for a small fee. Covid test will be simple this year without additional testing required. Bring spare tests anyway.
- iv. Final contracts have not yet been sent from PCI.
- v. Started planning for 2027.

J. Membership (**Anne**)

- i. Currently 246 members. Recently HQ is re-doing their website asking for updates on the list. Anne went through our list and is taking care of most inaccuracies. Good shape at the moment.

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

- i. Update on revising the “Guidelines for Youth Coordinator” document: There are many inconsistencies with existing RSCDS documents, but we are having difficulty finding a clear statement of their policy. We have sent two separate inquiries to the RSCDS but have not heard back. Will keep trying; once we get a response, we will be able to proceed.
- ii. website – minor maintenance. Nothing to report.

L. Equipment (**Hana**)

- i. Thom was asked to bring equipment to Waterloo Canada on April 25<sup>th</sup> for a RSCDS non-Boston-branch event. He will need to put in some research to bring the equipment over the border and back again. Current charge for weekend events is \$150. We will rent them the equipment at \$150, the future amount will be put on the agenda for a future.

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

- i. Linda and Alena are to have lunch to figure out how to move forward.
- ii. Karen was able to post on RSCDS and Strathspey Server.

N. NH Highland Games 2026 (**Karen**)

O. Bookstore and Archives (**Hana**)

- i. No news on bookstore. Archives note has gone out in the Tartan Times, with a couple of people have responded. Will continue to publicize before the Highland Ball.

P. *Tartan Times* (**Linda**)

- i. Recent edition is out. Anne, please send the video or picture from the award presentation.

IV. Old Business:

A. Branch Service Awards:

- i. Dave Thompson’s award delivered 3/23/26!
- ii. Update on proposed candidates. More information to be collected.

B. Review of draft email to class leaders about available support for teachers’ out-of-pocket expenses.

i. Linda will make the changes and re-send final draft.

V. New business - None

VI. Adjournment 9:03 Approved.

**Next Meeting: April. 29, 2026 7:00 PM.**

**Preview of scheduled business:** Review and circulate agenda for AGM, list of open positions, and call for self-nominations. Review known candidates for TMC, Nominating Comm., and Exec.

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## Executive Committee and Liaisons -- 2025-2026 *Rev. 1-6-26*

### Officers

President: Linda McJannet

Vice-President: Karen Sollins

Treasurer: Cathy Crabtree

Secretary: Alena Taylor

### Event and Committee Liaisons

ESCAPE: Kat

Equipment: Hana

Boston Scottish Country Dancers: Karen

Nominating Committee: Karen

Highland Ball: Karen

NH Highland Games: Karen

TMC: Kat

Scottish Sessions Pinewoods: Kat

Membership: Anne

Summer's End: Anne

*Tartan Times*: Linda

Bookstore and Archives: Hana

Website and Calendar: Robert

Publicity: Alena

Concert: Cathy

Hana Lang

Chelmsford, MA: Rebecca Gore

Bedford, MA: Heather Day

Fairlee, VT: Gary Apfel

Robert McOwen

Cambridge, MA: Alex Bowers

Cathy Crabtree:

Stow, MA: Vickery Trinkaus-Randall

Dave Ward

Greenland, NH: Merrill Henderson

Nashua, NH: Loren Wright

Lancaster, NH: Bill Tobin

### Class Liaisons

Jim Savitt:

Great Barrington, MA: Ted Randolph

Northampton, MA: Ilene Goldstein

Albany, NY: Lois New & Barb Bemis

Albany –Bethany Wright

Anne Johnson

Kennebunk, ME: Merrill Henderson

Belfast, ME: Dawn Little

Brunswick, ME: Anne Johnson

Bucksport, ME: Dawn Little

Kat Dutton:

Somerville : Kat Dutton

Karen Sollins:

Salem, MA: MaryEllen Scannell