

**RSCDS Boston Branch**  
**Executive Committee Meeting**  
Wednesday, June 29, 2022, 7:15pm

Location: Zoom

for Zoom access use link in email OR call: 1-646-876-9923

**Agenda**

1. *Zoom meeting 6/29/22 Attendance:* Alena Taylor, Lance Ramshaw, Linda McJannet, Marsha Byrnes, Anne Johnson, Connie Kent, Jeremy Thorpe, David Grubb, Susan Haines, Emily Russell, Bill Card

Cathy and Ted let us know in advance that they would not be able to attend.

Jeremy reviewed what the executive board does for the new members.

2. *Minutes from the previous meeting:* update of asking Karen to be on the nominating committee and receiving a declination from Ted during the last meeting. Minutes approved and passed.

3. *Treasurer's report:* **Cathy** Not much new to report from the Treasurer. Second payments have been made to Pinewoods and balance due payments are steadily coming in from campers. If any new members would like to see the report, Jeremy can email it. Approx \$70k in the bank.

4. New business

a. **New Liaison assignments**

Cambridge: Emily Russell

Brookline: Emily Russell

Newton: Emily Russell

Bedford: Emily Russell

Website: David Grubb

Equipment: Connie Kent

Calendar: Jeremy Thorpe

Scottish Pinewoods: Connie Kent

NH Highlands Weekend: Anne Johnson

Tartan Times: Emily Russell

Bookstore: Alena Taylor

Archives: Emily Russell

Brunswick, ME: Anne Johnson

Bucksport, ME: Anne Johnson

Belfast, ME: Anne Johnson

Burlington, VT: Connie Kent  
Publicity: Alena Taylor

## 5. Scheduled reports from liaisons

a. *Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (Jeremy)* Sudden news - increase in COVID at camp. No announcements have been made. David said about 10% campers tested positive after FAC. 4 staff members tested positive, they are isolating. Ended the first session early and started the next session late.

Camp guidelines requested for ESCape changes - increase testing to PCR tests, assert that they are asymptomatic, and campers wear masks between now and camp.

Operational changes: no camper dishwashers. Possible: no parties in the camp house, but in C#minor instead. This is an active and fluid situation. Pinewoods hasn't made any decisions, but we will also need to make a decision once they do about protocols that could change in the next 9 days before Scottish Sessions.

i. *staff COVID tests* Jeremy thinks we have enough antigen tests to cover all staff. Please feel free to bring more to camp. The collected tests were picked up by Cat Scannell last night at Cambridge class. No motion to amend the budget at this time in case of purchasing PCR tests for staff, but committed to the possibility of a larger deficit.

ii. *membership applications* Peter suggested that we advertise vocally at Pinewoods to join as a member through the website instead of paper copies in the camp packets.

iii. 145 booked for session 1 (full). 125 booked for session 2. If the dishwasher scholarships go away due to covid, Jeremy has put in a request to SCDA to cover the cost of those scholarships anyway.

Update: Pinewoods July 4th has been canceled. ESCape is still happening. Retesting crew on Sat/Sun with PCR tests.

If someone drops out due to covid scare, they will not count against our 115 minimum. This is not an official note.

b. Nominating Committee (Marsha)

*i. new member:* Ted asked Karen LaValle-Tente, who said no. David asked Lois New, who said no. Linda suggested possibly Vickery? Marsha will reach out to ask. If Vickery says no, Susan suggested possibly Laurie Somario? (looking for someone who knows a lot of people, there is a job description in the bi-laws) Bill suggested asking for recommendations from the people that have declined.

## 6. Optional reports from liaisons

*a. Teaching & Music Committee (Marsha)* Mtg on 6/21. Discussed Pinewoods and COVID rules. Step dance class requires hard-shoes which needs to be announced, gazettes are to be proof-read by TMC. The committee talked about backup plans for substitute teachers/musicians.

Starting to choose teachers for Pinewoods 2023 - lots of conversation, but no decisions of local teachers until after Pinewoods. No date was scheduled for the next meeting due to numerous conflicts. Next mtg is crossover and Pinewoods evaluations will be in and ready for discussion.

Jeremy suggested that the executive board receives copies of evaluations after Pinewoods each year.

*b. Boston Scottish Country Dancers/Demo team (Marsha)* - Nothing has been happening. Linda suggested encouraging Andy and Laura (and everyone on exec) to attract new dancers to join the demo team, especially men. They hold Sunday night rehearsals in Lexington. If you know that your town has a town fair or event, suggest them to the demo team. This should be part of our PR. Maine has two demo teams.

*c. Highland Ball (Marsha)* Fri and Sat night venue is reserved for the 2023 ball at the same location as the 2022 ball. They will hold the date without asking for a deposit. Elizabeth (co-chair) is going to take on the job of running it, with Marsha as mentor.

*d. Fall 2022 Concert (Linda)* All set with musicians, signed contracts, deposit for venue is set, Alena to continue assisting with publicity and social media, etc. On track timewise for November 12, 2022. Demo team reserved as well. This is part of our PR.

*e. ESCape (Bill)* No report in the last month. About 120 people booked including staff and campers. Session starts on Monday. They are on track to meet the budget.

CDSS has created a release/waiver for people attending Pinewoods, and CDS Boston has adopted this as well. Scottish sessions do not have their own at this time. This is an open question: Bill will send a copy of the waiver to the executive committee to read and vote on via email. The waiver states that campers won't sue RSCDS Boston if they get COVID at camp.

f. *Membership (Cathy)* No report from Cathy.

g. *Website (Lance)* Each person from each event/class to contact Meyer to update the website. No issues to raise at this time.

i. *website history page* Linda will continue updating the history branch information.

ii. *adding Scots Charitable Society link* - they reached out to Jeremy to have him put their link on RSCDS Boston website. No objections.  
Approved.

h. *Equipment (Lance)* Thom Howe is equipment manager. We approved a budget to replace. He has just sent Cathy the receipt for the final pieces (mic stands and a bag). He is still looking for an affordable cart.

i. *Publicity (Alena)* Meetup has 105 members at the moment. Cambridge class has been successfully getting a couple of new dancers approx. once a month. Liaisons are encouraged to bring up the possibility of their own Meetup page for classes and events.

j. *Loon Mountain NH Highland Games (Sept. 16-18) (Alena)* Nothing new to report. Merrill will be looking for help to staff our information booth later in the summer.

k. *New Hampshire Highland Weekend (Susan)* The event is taking place. Meyer updated the website. Flyers are available. Ad in Tartan times. 17 people have signed up, but need a minimum of 50. They will keep registration open until the event. Contact Roberta Lasnik. Alena to talk to Roberta about setting up a meetup group.

l. *Tartan Times (Susan)* Barbara appreciates an update from the secretary, along with the who's-who. Susan will forward the introduction and information to Alena.

m. *Bookstore (Susan)* Laurie Somario is to go to Pinewoods with the bookstore, she will (hopefully) be able to accept credit cards. Cathy ordered a new square reader for camp. Jeremy will bring it to camp.

n. Class Liaisons

*Great Barrington, MA:* **Ted** Generally, we continue to meet in person, with a week-to-week roll call to ensure a quorum. We will take a three week break due to the teachers' going on vacation and then Pinewoods Session II. Two new (to us) dancers have made contact but not been able to get to a class yet. Having two more dancers would be a boon to our spare roster. The GB Zoom class is meeting just once a month throughout the summer.

*Northampton, MA:* **Ted** (from Ilene Goldstein, new contact person) – The new space they've been in since March has been working out well. Attendance is generally 6-10. Two new but experienced and enthusiastic dancers joined the class recently, adding "great energy to our group." The class hopes to celebrate its 30 th anniversary (belatedly by a year) at their Fall Party on November 19 th . The class was founded in 1991 by Virginia Van Scoy and Earl Gaddis. The class will begin its summer break in July and will be starting up again the Thursday after Labor Day.

*Albany, NY:* **Ted** The party celebrating Dale Birdsall's 85 th birthday was a success, and we look forward to two more birthday programs for the last two classes in July. Barb and Sam Bemis will be the honorees, and we'll dance some of their favorites. Moving back to early July, the class plans to meet over the holiday weekend (7/3), and there are plans afoot to weather the Pinewoods exodus in style by bringing Pinewoods to Albany, with a program on the 10 th made up of Pinewoods dances. Much of the planning for these various programs has already been done, a good deal of it by teachers who will be at Pinewoods.

*Greenland, NH:* **Bill** going on break for the summer

*Nashua, NH:* **Bill** Going on break for the summer. Requested and received end of year subsidies for the end of year party.

*Kennebunk, ME:* **Bill** Going on break for the summer. Requested and received end of year subsidies for the end of year party.

*Brunswick, ME:* **David** on break for summer. will start up after labor day

*Bucksport, ME:* **David**

*Lancaster, NH:* **David**

*Fairlee, VT:* **David**

*Burlington, VT:* **David** still inactive.

*Belfast, ME:* **David**

*Cambridge, MA:* **Lance** End of season party was great. Continue over the summer after Pinewoods as they did in the spring with 1 teacher.

*Brookline, MA:* **Linda** Not dancing in person.

*Newton, MA:* **Linda** Not dancing. No venue

*Bedford, MA:* **Linda** Always up for new dancers. Doesn't have enough members for insurance coverage.

*Salem, MA:* **Alena** Salem Class is still a blank on the calendar. MaryEllen is in the process of contacting Salem dancers and is in the discovery stage of getting a demonstration in one of Salem's outdoor community events to attract new dancers.

*Stow, MA:* **Alena** We met for dancing 2x in June! The variable CD player died last Friday so we are looking into a replacement or going to computer.

*Chelmsford, MA:* **Alena** No news

7. *New business:* Jeremy wrote a letter to RSCDS headquarters about gender calling. They are aware and agree that a discussion needs to be had. They have also heard from other groups and across other committees.

Jeremy is happy to continue as owner of square ac, jot form, and calendar unless someone else wants to take care of it. He will continue to be available for questions.

8. Next Meeting

a. August 24th at 7:15pm via Zoom

*Optional reports:*

Archives (Susan): none

Calendar (Jeremy): none

Mtg adjourned. 9:02pm

**Officers**

President: Jeremy VP: Marsha  
Treasurer: Cathy Secretary: Susan

**Outgoing Board members:**

Lance Ramshaw  
Jeremy Thorpe (President)  
Susan Haines (Secretary)

**Incoming Board members:**

Anne Johnson  
Emily Russell  
Connie Kent

**New Officers:**

President: Linda McJanet  
VP: Marsha Byrnes  
Treasurer: Cathy Crabtree  
Secretary: Alena Taylor