

RSCDS Boston Branch
Executive Committee Minutes (Approved)
Wednesday, January 25, 2023 7:15pm

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

Attendance: Linda McJannet, Alena Taylor, Bill Card, Marsha Byrnes, David Grubb, Cathy Crabtree, Ted Randolph, and Connie Kent. Missing Anne Johnson and Emily Russell.

Agenda

1. Minutes from the previous meeting
 - a. (under Highland Ball/Memorial Hall amount is restoration fee based on number of tickets sold – separate from rent). Otherwise, APPROVED.
2. Treasurer's report (**Cathy**)
 - a. Membership dues \$5,327 paid to HQ using her own CC, to be reimbursed. Admin expenses: tax prep fees \$350, 990 EZ, 1099, and 1096. We've paid 5 music subsidies this year so far. \$800 was advanced to Salem class for Pinewoods Ball, as long as get the \$500 security deposit and \$300 rent to be repaid. Pinewoods will receive what's left over: numbers currently unknown.
3. Scheduled reports (and catch-up's)
 - a. Equipment needs?
 - i. No news from Thom.
 - b. Review of Members' Section of the website—do its contents need to be re-thought?
 - i. The website is now secure.
 - ii. Other branch sites do not have a password protected member section.
 - iii. "About the branch" can hold the Who's Who and should make it easy to use the bookstore, etc, and see who to contact (can search member directory) for liaison for all items.
 - iv. Policies and Procedures may be better listed elsewhere on the website.
 - v. Minutes can be visible to all.
 - vi. Only Directory as password protected, possibly musician list containing personal information. May be better to list musician websites as opposed to personal information. Marsha will bring this up at TMC.
 - vii. Our website has evolved towards dancers (inward facing), as opposed to general public and market towards new possible dancers (outward facing) We are looking for a balance.
 - viii. The calendar is empty because Jeremy isn't receiving the information. Marsha will follow up. We need the calendar, and a category of "other branch events". There is a calendar in TT that should be on the website and not in TT. Classes do not need to be on calendar, but all special events should.

- ix. Best to list contact information about demo team – needs link!
 - x. David to ask Meyer for a site map, in order to adjust pages over time. Starting with the most important.
 - xi. Linda to have conversation with Meyer about our goals and plans and items for exec to work on.
- c. Review of the Policies and Procedures therein—which (if any) need to be updated
 - i. Last updated in 2019. Small things to be updated. **Send edits/suggestions to David**. Pgs 1-7 are Connie, Bill, Ted, Linda. Pgs 8-15 are Cathy, Alena, Marsha, David.
 - d. Final thoughts on Covid “expectations” for PW?
 - i. No. We don’t need to make any decisions now.
4. Monthly reports from liaisons
- a. Teaching & Music Committee (**Marsha**)
 - i. Discussed Highland Ball, Pinewoods, and more.
 - b. Boston Scottish Country Dancers (**Marsha**)
 - c. Highland Ball (**Marsha**)
 - i. Registration starts in March
 - d. Nominating Committee (**Marsha**) –clarify what positions will be open this spring, especially on TMC.
 - i. Looking for Karen Sollins replacement, Jen will stay to finish her second term.
 - e. Fall 2023 Concert (**Linda**)
 - i. Looking at venues. Nearer to city for non-drivers and younger viewers.
 - f. ESCape (**Connie**)
 - i. Registration opened on NYE. Building a contract for staff. Budget to be presented via email to be reviewed next month.
 - g. Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (**Bill**)
 - i. No news from Debbie and Cat.
 - h. Membership (**Cathy**)
 - i. Peter and Mary are expecting their 2nd child this week. Cathy and John will put together the directory to assist.
 - i. Website (**David**)*
 - i. See notes above
 - j. Equipment (**Connie**)
 - i. No news.
 - k. Publicity (**Alena**)
 - i. 150 members. Set up a meetup for Salem class but will ask them for information and photos. Asked Ted to write up what he wants in the Meetup for his classes.
 - l. Loon Mountain Games (Sept. 16-18) (**Alena**)
 - i. Ask Merrill to send to calendar and RSCDS.org
 - ii. Nothing going yet for the New Hampshire Games. NHSCOT did have a Hogmany party yesterday for which I led some ceilidh dancing.

The participation was pretty good and I handed out the wristbands with the Boston Branch web address on them and talked up the classes. I don't know whether it will result in new class members, but a lot of people took the wristbands.

- m. New Hampshire Highlands (**Alena**)
 - i. No news. Alena to ask Roberta for dates
 - n. Bookstore (**Alena**)
 - i. No news.
 - o. Tartan Times (**Emily**)
 - i. Linda spoke with Cathy and Barbara about the change in editors, and put them in contact with each other to discuss.
 - p. Class Liaisons
5. Continuing business: Re-purposing the proposed Zoom meeting with Class Leaders (**Linda**)
- a. Preview changes at the *TT*.
 - b. Thank them for Covid creativity,
 - c. Invite them to share ideas (with us and with each other) about challenges and solutions to building and rebuilding classes post-pandemic.
 - d. Linda to send out email to schedule a time for collaboration
6. New business
- a. HQ wants to know if we have potential candidates for teacher training, and whether we anticipate needing an examiner in 2023. (**Alena**)
 - i. Marsha to ask TMC. But likely not happening this year.
 - b. Or, alternatively, whether any of our members are interested in participating in a teacher training course to be held in Ontario in 2024.
 - i. One person from the Albany class is interested in taking the class/ exams.
7. Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 22, 2023

Optional reports: Archives (Emily); Calendar (Marsha)

Officers and Liaisons for 2022-2023

Officers

President: Linda

VP: Marsha

Treasurer: Cathy

Secretary: Alena

Event Liaisons

ESCape: Connie

Demo team: Marsha

Nominating Committee: Marsha

Highland Ball: Marsha

TMC: Marsha

Membership: Cathy

NH Highlands: Anne

Tartan Times: Emily

Archives: Emily

Bookstore: Alena

Scottish Sessions Pinewoods: Bill

Calendar: Marsha

NH Highland Games: Alena

Publicity: Alena

Website: David

Equipment: Connie

Concert: Linda

Class Liaisons

Great Barrington, MA: **Ted**

Publicity push, have had a few new dancers.

Northampton, MA: **Ted**

Ilene recovering from health concerns. Substitute has been teaching, and class continues.

Albany, NY: **Ted**

Had two parties at the end/beginning of the year. Successful. Dance fleury (Feb 17-19) at Saratoga Springs is coming back, sometimes a demo team dancing or teaching workshops or dance parties.

Greenland, NH: **Bill**

Continues dancing on Tuesday nights.

Last week, the 17th, we had a small event to remember, dance and have a dram in honor of Peter Tandy and his cohorts of Sally, Morven & Daan.

Nashua, NH: **Bill**

Still dancing, but send out email ahead of time to ensure at least 6 people will come.

Kennebunk, ME: **Bill**

Dancing on Sunday evenings with barely enough people to dance. Planning a downeast fling in June.

Belfast, ME: **Anne**

Brunswick, ME: **Anne**

Bucksport, ME: **Anne**

Continues to meet each week as weather permits. 10-14 dancers. (Please share what is going right!)

Lancaster, NH: **David**

No news

Fairlee, VT: **David**

Class continues with 10 members.

Burlington, VT: **Connie**

Should also be taken off this list for foreseeable future.

Cambridge, MA: **Emily**

During November and December, Cambridge Class enjoyed fine teaching by Mary Ellen Scannell, Roberta Lasnik, Keira Hartstein and Beth Birdsall, and wonderful music from band leaders John Chambers and Anne Hooper. December culminated with the Cambridge Class Holiday Party. Keira Hartstein, MC, led a fun program of dances to awesome music by Tom Pixton, Catherine Miller and Elizabeth Anderson. We celebrated the end of another happy and successful year of dancing with friends from near and far.

Brookline, MA: **Emily**

Sent an inquiry to Flo and Mary as to whether the venue would still be available if another teacher could be found but have not had a response from them. I can follow up further if we feel it's worth it.

Newton, MA: **Emily**

I think we're now considering this class to be permanently inactive, so perhaps we can remove it from the agenda. I've also asked Meyer and Barbara to remove it from the online/TT class listings.

Bedford, MA: **Emily**

Continues to meet weekly. report from last month: "I have had some email inquiries about the class but so far no new participants. We met yesterday as usual and had a good time. Not too much technique but lots of fun. And of course dancing the New Year Jig.

Salem, MA: **Alena**

PW Ball was well attended (5 sets.) soon as the City of Salem releases the hall deposit (that Exec graciously loaned us for the event) I'll pick it up personally which gets it back 3 weeks sooner than a check in the mail. We only cleared about \$300.00 to donate to Pinewoods much less pre pandemic. Hoping to become Cultural Partners with Salem sometime this year when all the logistics are worked out.

Salem class is officially at the Purple door Yoga Studio. Attendance is erratic ranging from 7 couples to 2 couples. We are hoping to get more Northshore folks to get into the Thursday night habit again. There seems to have been a nasty cold going around that seems to have run its course.

Susie Petrov has graciously donated her time & talent to provide music for the class when she is in town.(she is now retired and home most of the time.) Just check the branch website to discover the info on the Salem class was not changed...Attending to that today.

Stow, MA: **Alena**

We now have live music.

Still working hard on attendance and affected by weather.

January 13 - 2-3C sets and celebration of January birthdays.

Jan 27 - we will dance H. Lasnik's dance - unsung hero for Peter Tandy

Chelmsford, MA: Alena

Met in December with two 3 couple sets with Susie Long teaching and Clara S-W playing.