

RSCDS Boston Branch
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 30, 2023, 7:15pm

Location: For Zoom access use link in email OR call: 617 417 1621

Attendance: Linda McJannet, Emily Russell, Alena Taylor, Anne Johnson, Connie Kent, Kat Dutton, Ted Randolph, Marsha Byrnes, Cathy Crabtree, David Grubb

Agenda

1. Minutes from the previous meeting (**Alena**)
 - a. approved with corrections given via email.
2. Treasurer's report (**Cathy**)
 - a. Final numbers for Scottish and ESCape Pinewoods have not come in yet.
 - b. Chelmsford received a music subsidy of \$360, Laurie ordered books for the bookstore.
3. New business: Possible *TT* co-editor (Guest: **Nikki Laurenzano**), Bio and sample work provided via email.
 - a. Looking forward to the task. Linda will continue to assist.
 - b. Motion made and passed to make Nikki the *TT* Co-Editor
4. Scheduled reports from liaisons:
 - a. Pinewoods debrief—Scottish and ESC
 - b. Fall event planning: Loon; Fall concert
(Review and update Website—usually done in August, but already done!)
 - i. See notes in section 5e.
5. Optional reports from liaisons
 - a. Teaching & Music Committee (**Kat**)
 - i. Suzie Petrov accepted role as new musician on committee.
 - ii. Discussed how Pinewoods went.
 - iii. Define role of PCI board Rep with TMC?
 - b. Boston Scottish Country Dancers (**Marsha**)
 - i. Time to start up again – looking for dancers for try-outs.
 - c. Highland Ball (**Marsha**)
 - i. Mara is the ball musician and Torrent is the welcome dance music
 - d. Nominating Committee (**Marsha**)
 - i. No news
 - e. Fall 2023 Concert (**Linda**)
 - i. Digital post card is in email. Being printed as we speak.
 - ii. We did get the grant for \$1,200 from the NH Scots
 - iii. Venue is Arts at the Armory
 - iv. Tickets are live and ready to purchase with ticket leap
 - v. Next step will be to add the link to the RSCDS Boston website
 - f. ESCape (**Connie**)
 - i. Almost sold out – 152 registered and 138 at the start of camp. One person left mid-week for illness, 1 person had exposure directly before camp and couldn't attend.

- ii. M-F July 1-5 – no positive covid tests. One positive after camp, expected to most likely have been caught on plane home.
 - iii. Covid policies were stricter than PCI (48 hours masked, 2 at-camp tests)
 - iv. Class offerings were The Usual (ESC with advanced and "for all" versions for each tradition). Also Tai-Chi and Change-Ringing. Waltzing, Harmony Singing, Longsword, a Warmups/cooldowns class with Jamie
 - 1. Arthur McNair (SCD), Margaret Bary (ECD), Mary Westley (contra)
 - v. Chocolate party was great!
 - vi. Classes tended to be well attended, even to the end of the week (slight downward trend but not horrible)
 - vii. Each evening dance was split thirds
 - 1. Final night had grand march and pinewoods reel
 - 2. All nights ended with an Evening Song
 - viii. Evening parties were awesome
 - 1. First two in Pine Hollow, later in Camphouse
 - 2. Pub night was AWESOME!
 - ix. Evals were mostly positive
 - 1. Camp is too short!
 - 2. Thank you for inclusivity of camp!
 - 3. Special positive feedback for Margaret Bary's positional calling in her English classes
 - x. Budget
 - 1. Looked like shortfall of ~\$132 but they might've missed a scholarship
 - 2. Had more scholarships than usual this year, to make camp more financially accessible
 - 3. Have been approached by folks looking to donate to a scholarship fund so are looking into that for the future
 - 4. April Birnie has more specifics
 - xi. Five Person Committee!
 - 1. MUCH more smoothly than two-person committee
 - 2. April and Daniel not burned out
 - 3. Everyone felt good about that! Will plan to continue with five next year, but then eventually drop to five and maintain five.
- g. Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (Guest: **Debbie**)
- i. 76 total evaluations received – overwhelmingly positive feedback, especially about musicians and teachers.
 - ii. For next year,
 - 1. please ensure Pinewoods Reel Demystified in a different time slot than tricky dances.
 - 2. Offer Essentials every day for beginners

3. Rename classes to clarify expectations, along with lunch announcements from teachers.
- iii. Tom was an excellent music director and sent his own survey around to musicians for their feedback.
- iv. General attendance was down. Wondering about covid protocols, but noticed that ESC was more strict and almost sold out.
- v. A variety of terminology was used by MCs and accepted by all.
- vi. Very little “drama” this year.
- vii. Next year teachers:
 1. David Queen (thrilled to come back!) full time 1 SCD and 1 Highland per day
 2. Catherine Queen part time doing 1 step
 3. Jeanne Moody full time doing 2 SCD
 4. Jodi Kulas - was excellent MC this year, will be staff next year full time doing 2 SCD. Her wife made the highland coo artwork that Thom bought for a million dollars, aww!
 5. Likely Jen as part-time to do Conditioning (not yet confirmed)s
 6. Next year music director is Catherine Miller - Leaning on Susie and Debbie for support
 7. Hopeful for Hanneke in 2025 (for 100th anniversary at Pinewoods) She does want to come back, but scheduling meant she couldn't do 2024
- h. **Membership (Cathy)**
 - i. Renewals have begun. 26 people so far. Next year’s income.
 - ii. Possibility of a new chair is moving forward – Anne Johnson
 - iii. Membership drive will begin in September.
- i. **Website (David)**
 - i. Meyer has been updating things regularly after a bunch of activity in early summer
- j. **Equipment (Connie)**
 - i. No news
- k. **Publicity and social media (Alena)**
 - i. Ann and Alena to be on the committee. Suzie Petrov is willing to join to help support, promote, and help get the ball rolling. It would be nice to have someone from TMC on the committee as well.
 - ii. Approach Jeremy for this committee - Alena. Advertise to the general membership – Linda to write email to class leaders and membership. Alena to post on FB.
 - iii. “Next Door” network online community of neighbors might be a good idea. How to use FB better, MeetUp for each classes, etc.
- l. **Loon Mountain Games (3rd weekend Sept) (Marsha)**
 - i. Linda will give Patty more postcards to bring to the games.
- m. **Summer’s End (Anne)**

- i. We want to share that Summer's End August 25-27, 2023 at Hulburt Outdoor Center, VT was a success.
Our teachers - Katherine Giacoletti, Lance Ramshaw and Jen Schoonover taught inspiring classes to our 40 plus campers.
The classes and evening dances were accompanied by the very talented combination of Peter Macfarlane - Music Director and fiddle, Viveka Fox - fiddle, Aaron Marcus - piano, and Nate Silva on pipes.
We have planned to return to HOC in August 2024 for another great weekend. A full report will be presented to Exec at the Fall AGM/ SAGM.
 - ii. Still waiting to hear whether or not this will be a branch event.
 - n. Bookstore (**Emily**)
 - i. "There were a few requests for book 53 orders at Pinewoods, and I've just heard that the order finally shipped out last week along with a reorder for a few numbered books we had run out of. I will be requesting a reimbursement from Cathy this week of around 600\$, though 60% or so of that amount should be coming back quickly, as I've already promised several of the copies to people who have requested."
 - o. Tartan Times (**Emily/Linda**)
 - i. See new business in section 3.
 - p. Class Liaisons
- 6. Continuing business:
 - a. (**Linda**) Gender neutral is taking its own course at the moment. Emily suggests that it is still worth exec having a stated position. Possibly share at the SAGM?
- 7. Next Meeting: **September 27, 2023** 7:15pm
 - a. Connie and David will not make the meeting next month. Alena will try to attend, but not guaranteed. Kat will take meeting minutes if needed.
 - b. SAGM is 11/6 (FYI)

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

Liaisons for 2022-2023 (updated 6/28/23)

Officers

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

Publicity/Social Media: Alena

Website: David

Concert: Linda

Event and Department Liaisons

ESCAPE: Connie
Equipment: Connie

Demo team: Marsha
Nominating Committee: Marsha
Highland Ball: Marsha

TMC: Kat
Scottish Sessions Pinewoods: Kat

Membership: Cathy

Summer's End (formerly NHH): Anne

Tartan Times: Emily
Archives: Emily

Calendar: Marsha

Bookstore: Emily

NH Highland Games: Marsha

Class Liaisons

Great Barrington, MA: Ted
Northampton, MA: Ted
Albany, NY: Ted

Greenland, NH: Anne
Nashua, NH: Anne
Kennebunk, ME: Anne

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

Lancaster, NH: David
Fairlee, VT: David

Cambridge, MA: Kat

Bedford, MA: Emily

Salem, MA: Connie
Stow, MA: Connie
Chelmsford, MA: Connie

APPENDIX

Class Liaisons

Great Barrington, MA: Ted

Bumpy summer for attendance. Hoping the fall brings attendance up. The community center approached Ted about teaching a 6-week class.

Northampton, MA: Ted

No summer classes. Start 9/7 with a few inquiries over the summer. Working on attracting new dancers.

Albany, NY: Ted

Fall Frolik – in person at Lois' house on 11/5 to celebrate.

Different hours for the regular class on Sunday 10/29 (Halloween themed)

Greenland, NH: Anne

Summer off. Starting 9/12

Nashua, NH: Anne

No news

Kennebunk, ME: Anne

Starting in September

Belfast, ME: Anne

Looking for a new location

Brunswick, ME: Anne

Starting Thursday 9/7. Fall Dance Party 10/14.

Bucksport, ME: Anne

Classes as usual

Lancaster, NH: David

No news

Fairlee, VT: David

Danced all summer. Demonstration in July and September

Cambridge, MA: Kat

Danced all summer. First Monday mask-required, other weeks optional. 10th anniversary coming up at the Canadian American Club in Watertown celebrating on 9/25. Talking about whether to continue doing all classes hybrid. Two new people who transferred from CA. MeetUp has been working well. Talking about accommodating families and children.

Bedford, MA: Emily

Continues to meet regularly, although one recent class was canceled due to low anticipated attendance, in part related to concerns after a dancer tested positive for Covid (fortunately, no additional positive tests were reported). Heather expects class attendance to pick up again after Labor Day.

Salem, MA: Connie

Will not meet until November. Class stuff and attic materials need to be removed and stored.
Connie will have MaryEllen email the details to Linda for email to membership.

Stow, MA: Connie

Summer picnic. Classes start again 9/4

Chelmsford, MA: Connie

August 12th was the beginning of season. 9/1 will be first class.