

# **RSCDS Boston Branch**

## **Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, September 30, 2023, 7:15pm

### **Agenda**

1. Minutes from the previous meeting
  - a. There were a handful of corrections, not yet incorporated but should be soon. Once they are incorporated, minutes approved.
2. Treasurer's report (Cathy)
  - a. Still a few days shy of the end of the fiscal year -- document Cathy sent is preliminary. Looking like we're ending with a shortfall compared to last year
  - b. Summary reports from Pinewoods -- ESC made a small surplus (shared with CDSBoston) +\$139, so +\$70 to us (and they owe us ~\$212? for a scholarship)
  - c. Scottish -- small deficit mostly from travel budget --
    - i. driving up to \$0.655 per mile (up from \$0.19!) and paying for several teacher's flights.
    - ii. Some refunds from covid policy
    - iii. Some scholarships from SCDEA
    - iv. Some donations from campers
    - v. Paid more party subsidies to the branch (8 music subsidies this year, 5 last year)
  - d. Spending a little more on marketing/administrative expenses, paying \$350 for someone to do our tax return for us
  - e. Retroactive payments to the people running Demo Team (\$450 in back payments, Andy went up to \$300 this year, Laura \$150)
  - f. Online payments are going up as well -- lots of people using Square
  - g. The membership fees for next year are in our account, appear to be on the balance sheet but are not in last year's income
  - h. Also the \$1200 from NHScot for the concert grant
  - i. Sat Oct 14 is the Brunswick party which we APPROVED the music subsidy for.

3. New business

- a. SAGM date (already set—November 6, 2023)
- b. Delegates and ballot for HQ AGM
  - i. Probably part of the "fall gathering" in November but we've heard basically nothing about it (ballot initiatives?)
  - ii. We need delegates potentially? (4)
  - iii. There seems to be something around the number of branches you can be part of? We will wait and see what information they send
  - iv. Also voting for board members (or vote-by-proxy)
  - v. Increase in subscription fees
  - vi. Changes in bylaws
  - vii. Delegates are responsible for looking over the materials

4. Optional reports from liaisons

- a. Teaching & Music Committee (Kat)
  - i. Asking specifically about a zoom account, John has one for hosting Cambridge Class. Would be about \$15 per month, who would control it, have permissions?
    1. Emily is making a good case for us as an Institution having an account and not continuing to rely on the good will of the people we've been using accounts from thus far (especially because Linda/Robert/Etc will not necessarily be president/ chair forever)
    2. Secretary can have account information, and can set things up for people who need it. Anyone in the branch can use for branch business. Privacy concerns? How do we best set it up? Alena in charge (probably)
  - ii. We will get a Highland Ball budget next month from MaryEllen and Sharon
- b. Boston Scottish Country Dancers (Marsha)
  - i. Rehearsing in Somerville for the November concert. Happy for more people, but managing with what we get.
  - ii. Dancers specifically for the ball are not yet settled, still open to more.
  - iii. We have newer dancers too! Andrew from the west coast is likely dancing for the concert. Nikki appears to have joined us for practices but possibly not the concert (it's lovely to have her!)

- iv. There was a lunch meeting to check in and encourage everyone to tighten up timelines, but both Andy and Beth have Big Life Things coming up this year.
  - v. Is there also a stipend for Beth? (Since she is helping with administrative overhead)
  - vi. Split the money in a different way? Less in favor than just \$150 as assistant?
  - vii. Cathy feels we need to continue to work at getting the commitments from people running and dancing on demo team first --get it back to where it was?
  - viii. Need very clear guidelines - who is running it, what are the expectations from leadership and participants
  - ix. Good start to have an open rehearsal
  - x. Is there value to invite them to a full exec meeting?
  - xi. Motion was made to make Beth more officially a collaborator to help out. Honorarium of \$150 with the caveat of having guidelines. Linda and Kat will create a first pass of guidelines and bring them to demo team, to Laura/Andy/Beth, etc.
- c. Highland Ball (Marsha)
- i. Venu/musician/mc for Friday and Saturday are all set
  - ii. Looking for Sunday host - Check with Marc and Keira in Ipswich
  - iii. Melrose hall for Saturday is confirmed and contracted
  - iv. Identical to last year, can make changes up to 6 months out
  - v. Deposit will be paid shortly
- d. Nominating Committee (Marsha)
- i. Seems like everything's dormant at the moment, they'll get back into it in the future. Marsha to review Jeremy's spreadsheet.
- e. Fall 2023 Concert (Linda)
- i. Facebook advertising is starting!
  - ii. Advertising to the "New England Scots" promoting and supporting
  - iii. How do we best publicise the concert?

- iv. Sold 37 tickets so far! Out of a capacity of 360. So that is....a long way to go.
- v. Armory has us listed on their website but we need to improve their information --Cathy will check with them tomorrow and get them the direct link to buying tickets
- vi. Will need some number of volunteers
- f. ESCape (Connie)
- g. Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (Kat)
  - i. See TMC notes
- h. Membership (Anne)
  - i. Anne is officially the chair, yay!
  - ii. She's been talking to Peter and learning about the site
  - iii. Needs to get our database in a form she can use --Peter is working on getting it into Access and to her
  - iv. Cathy has been sending in paper memberships, Anne has been compiling jotform.
  - v. Getting the rscds membership email synced up with Anne and unsynced from PeterO's devices
  - vi. Could start updating the HQ website at Anne's leisure
  - vii. Currently 103 members.
  - viii. Cutoff is Pinewoods, essentially (June 30)
  - ix. Linda has verbiage for doing a membership "push" in a few weeks
- i. Website (David)
  - i. Class descriptions have been updated!
  - ii. Covid protocols and stuff have been updated/removed
  - iii. Should someone on Exec be able to edit the website? We can edit the calendar?
  - iv. Encourage people to put their events on the calendar, including past Dec 31

- v. Should we send class changes direct to Meyer rather than all through David? Meyer would generally prefer for chairs/leaders direct to him rather than through an intermediary
- vi. The teacher meeting is conflicting with the New Haven branch --can we figure out ways to reduce these sorts of conflicts? Susan Easley might be willing to help out with this.
- vii. Tartan Times used to serve this purpose --out of branch close events (NY, New Haven, Philly, etc). Would Susan be willing to do "far and near" events and put them up?
- j. Equipment (Connie)
- k. Publicity and Social Media (Alena)
  - i. Meetup, facebook, nextdoor, frontporch (?)
  - ii. Have an eventual meeting with the class leaders and provide assistance getting hooked into those things
  - iii. Can we subsidse MeetUp for the branch?
  - iv. Currently team is Alena, Kat, jere7my, SusiePetrov. Alena to schedule brainstorm session.
  - v. Goal is to help our classes get new dancers
- l. Loon Mountain Games (3<sup>rd</sup> weekend Sept) (Marsha)
  - i. Between 30-40 dancers for SCD (from Merril). They were very enthusiastic, many children came around, the concert was advertised, (and possibly dancing in general), no flashmob but maybe next year.
  - ii. Patti - ceilidh dance ended with 80 people (!), went smoothly and had a lot of fun
  - iii. SusieP suggests next year passing out postcards at the fiddle camp
- m. Summer's End (Anne)
  - i. Roberta has said "was successful, full report at SAGM"
  - ii. We still don't know if they want to be a full branch event?
  - iii. They did not wind up taking/needng the subsidy
  - iv. Cathy will reach out to their committee for more information
- n. Bookstore (Emily)

- i. No report
  - o. Tartan Times (Emily/Linda)
    - i. Nikki is and I quote "the best". She has mastered the software And created a template with a front page that has a tartan border that can be a different one every issue.
    - ii. The layout is set, just need the content. There will be space for short bios of contributors!
    - iii. Someone from NH Reel and Strathspey Society reached out to potentially contribute for a future issue!
    - iv. Looking to get out in early October
  - p. Class Liaisons
    - i. This was put off until next month.
5. If you are the liasion to someone on the SAGM agenda, please remind them.
- a. Pinewoods: Scottish, ESC, PCI. Summer's End.
6. Next Meeting: October 25, 2023

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