

# **RSCDS Boston Branch**

## **Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, March 27, 2024, 7:15 pm

Location: Zoom

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

### Agenda

- A. Minutes from the previous meeting (**Alena**)
  - a. Minutes approved.
- B. Treasurer's report (**Cathy**)
  - a. Through 3/26: Pinewoods deposits are coming in. Ahead of last year with ESCape money. Tickets for Highland Ball are slow but should pick up in April. A couple of new people joined as branch members. One insurance payment has been renewed.
- C. Reports from class liaisons

**Great Barrington, MA:** (Ted) Continue to have too many cancellations due to numbers but hosted a birthday party ceilidh session in lieu of class, with 17 out of town visitors participating.

**Northampton, MA:** (Ted) Nothing new. 2 dancers are out with injuries.

**Albany, NY:** (Ted) No updates received from Lois. Workshop on 3/24 supported 3 teacher candidates, total number of dancers for party was 10 couples. Excellent turnout. Celtic weekend is coming up on Saturday 3/30.

**Greenland, NH:** (Anne) Been meeting regularly, but small class.

**Nashua, NH:** (Anne) No report received.

**Kennebunk, ME:** (Anne) Some issues with weather cancellations. Downeast Fling is scheduled for 6/8.

**Belfast, ME:** (Anne) No report received.

**Brunswick, ME:** (Anne) Good showing, more and more returnee dancers.

**Bucksport, ME:** (Anne) Total of 18 regular dancers per week, and 2 new dancers this month. Getting ready for Memorial Day party on 5/26.

**Lancaster, NH:** (David) No news

**Fairlee, VT:** (David) Prepping for spring fling on 5/18

**Cambridge, MA:** (Kat) Prepping for end of season party on 6/24. Covid policy updates – no more vaccination required. 1<sup>st</sup> Monday is still mask-required. Planning for different weekly teachers for summer classes.

**Bedford, MA:** (Emily) Continues to meet regularly. Willing to share video of class, perhaps add it to the website? Emily will send it to exec for review.

**Salem, MA:** (Connie) About to start a new series for new dancers to prep for the ball.

**Stow, MA:** (Connie) Attendance is continuing to come back after Covid. Often have 2 sets. 3-5 beginners per night. About 8 dances per class.

**Chelmsford, MA:** (Connie) No news.

D. Scheduled business

1. Review membership rates for next year
  - a. Cathy has started analysis, but the report is not yet ready.
  - b. David recommends continuing to reduce the couples' discount
2. Consider candidates for Nominating Committee (Merrill leaving)
  - a. How about asking Suzie Long? Marsha will talk to her. 3-year term, light schedule but important position.
3. Consider candidates to appoint to the Teaching and Music Committee; including those recommended by the current TMC members.
  - a. One member at large who is neither teacher or musician. Beth Birdsall and Ilana Schmidt were brought up as possibilities to replace Laurie and Robert.
4. Choose date for AGM and notify Cambridge Class
  - a. June 3<sup>rd</sup>? Kat will bring that date to Cambridge class

E. Reports from committee liaisons

1. Teaching & Music Committee (**Kat**)—TMC's recommendations for new members; progress on proposed poll re: gender-neutral terminology?
  - a. MCs have finished Pinewoods programs and posted on the website.
  - b. Future Pinewoods (2026 – Hanake may be able to be music director)
  - c. Ball prep is going well. Linda will talk to MaryEllen and ensure that there is open communication between Ball Chairs and all 3 MCs regarding clear, gender-neutral terms for calling and walk-through.
  - d. Kat will work on getting the results from the gender-neutral terms survey.
2. Boston Scottish Country Dancers (**Marsha**)
  - a. 8 people on demo team preparing for NEFFA.
  - b. Linda to have meeting with Marcy regarding Scottish on the Greenway this summer, not just for demo team, but for any dancers.
3. Highland Ball (**Marsha**)
  - a. Nothing additional from Marsha
  - b. Looking for volunteers for Saturday
4. Nominating Committee (**Marsha**)
  - a. Two nominees. Waiting for two more responses. Thinking they will have 3 nominees for the 2 open at-large positions.
  - b. President and Secretary are also up for re-election. Linda and Alena are happy to continue in these roles.
5. Fall 2024 Concert/Ceilidh (**Cathy**)
  - a. Not much to report. Still 8 months away. Scottish Fish contract is in-hand. Highland Armory has us scheduled, but no contract yet.
6. ESCape (**Connie**)

- a. A little more Covid conscious than other sessions and may require masking for the first 24 hours.
- b. Currently 116 participants signed up.
7. Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (**Kat**)
  - a. Updated numbers 93 session I, 88 for session II
8. Membership (**Anne**)
  - a. Starting to look at membership form and rates to prepare for next exec mtg. As of today, membership is 232
9. Website (**David**) and Calendar (**Marsha**)
  - a. No complaints, happy to see Pinewoods info has been listed on the website. David, please have Meyer include the link to the Ball program on the website itself, as opposed to just on the Ball flyer.
10. Equipment (**Connie**)
  - a. Nothing to report.
11. Publicity and Social Media Committee (**Alena**)
  - a. Bedford class needs a meetup page
  - b. Alena needs to re-schedule the next committee meeting with an agenda of social media. – Do any of our classes have their own FB pages? Would they like to? What level of help are we willing to offer? Liaisons, please ask class leaders by next meeting.
  - c. Consider using a professional social media manager?
12. Loon Mountain Games (3<sup>rd</sup> weekend Sept) (**Marsha**)
  - a. Marsha will talk to Merrill for updates
  - b. Tickets are now available.
13. Bookstore (**Emily**)
  - a. **No report**
14. Tartan Times (**Linda**)
  - a. Next issue is almost ready to be published.

F. Continuing business: None

G. New business: Robert McGowen mentioned something about publicity about teaching certification steps. CTI – Core Training for Instructors.

Adjournment 8:53pm

Next Meeting: April 24, 2024, at 7:15 PM

April Meeting will include:

Nominating Committee candidates finalized

Circulate agenda for AGM and call for nominations.

Choose next year's Highland Ball chairs and venue