

RSCDS Boston Branch 2024-25
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 28, 2024, 7:15 pm

Location: Zoom

for Zoom access use link in email OR call: 1-617-417-1621

Attendance: Dave Ward, Alena Taylor, Anne Johnson, Linda McJannet, Robert McOwen, Marsha Byrnes, Kat Dutton, Connie Kent, Cathy Crabtree

Missing: Emily Russell

Agenda

- I. Minutes from the previous meeting (**Alena**)
 - a. Alasdair Fraser (Alena, please fix spelling!)
 - b. In letter G – Susan Easley has confirmed for one year.
 - c. In letter D/Albany - change to Flurry
 - d. Approved with changes.

- II. Treasurer's report (**Cathy**)
 - a. Postponed for a few days. Please check email.

- III. Reports from Class liaisons

Great Barrington, MA (**Emily**) *Ted* - Our class had a summer party on August 17th, with dancing (not our norm) since we hadn't danced together since May. Two dancers, new to the group and the area, attended as they plan to dance with us going forward. Fingers crossed for continued participation. We will resume classes after a summer hiatus (the first in many years), on September 12. Class is now on Thursdays, previously was on Wednesdays, and goes from 7:15 to 9:00. Beginner Class goes from 9/12 - 10/24 for six sessions, no class on 10/3. Pre-registration will be required for beginners taking the class, but experienced dancers may join (are encouraged to join) on a drop-in basis. Beginners are being "highly encouraged" to attend all six sessions. There may be a curriculum tie-in with the Fall Frolic program, we'll see.

I have begun a new Instagram account, @ted_teaches_dance, for publicizing the class. Our venue will repost anything I tag them in, which was really the point. My visibility otherwise is pretty small. Open level classes with drop-in attendance resume on November 7th. (Ted's class)

Northampton, MA (**Emily**) no report received.

Albany, NY (**Emily**) no report received.

Bedford, MA (**Emily**) I don't have anything special to report this month. Class continues weekly, with a core group of 8-10 dancers, and a few more come irregularly. I have also had a few guest teachers, and once a month+ live music, appreciated by all. (Heather)

Cambridge, MA (**Robert**) *Alex* – Masks optional as of July. Participation has been higher than the previous year.

Greenland, NH (**Dave**) *Merrill* – will begin Tuesdays in September.

Nashua, NH (**Dave**) *Loren* – meeting through August, including tonight. 8-10 dancers

Lancaster, NH (**Dave**) *Bill* – start up again in September after Highland Games

Kennebunk, ME (**Anne**) Starting on Sept. 8th.

Belfast, ME (**Anne**) Has been dancing all summer

Brunswick, ME (**Anne**) Starting on Sept. 5th Fall dance party is scheduled for Oct. 19th.

Bucksport, ME (**Anne**) Has been dancing all summer.

Maine Highland Games held August 17 - The Maine Scottish Country Dancers have performed for many years as a solo act at these games. This year we became part of a Scottish Dance Showcase, led by Laura Scott with Ed Pearlman plus a keyboardist and Laura's brother on bagpipes, featuring Highland, Scottish Country Dance, Cape Breton Step and more. The showcase was presented three times throughout the day to a wide audience - here's hoping we captured some interest in Scottish Country Dancing (flyers were available)!

Fairlee, VT (**Connie**) 6 members attended Summer's End this past weekend. Autumn social is scheduled for Oct. 26th .

Salem, MA (**Connie**) Class resumes Sept. 5th. Already have new inquiries.

Stow, MA (**Connie**) Starting Sept. 27th.

Chelmsford, MA (**Connie**) Started August 2nd. The Chelmsford class met on 8/2/2024 for our monthly class. We had three 3-couple sets.

We also had our annual class party on 8/10/2024 with a potluck dinner. Despite the planning committee having various pesky illnesses, fun was had by all. About 25 dancers were in attendance. Plans are in the works for next year's party on the second Saturday in August 2025.

IV. Scheduled business

A. Fall Concert/Ceilidh planning (**Cathy**)

- a. Post cards are printed and will be mailed shortly. Other planning is going along well. November 24th at Arts at the Armory in Somerville.

B. NH Highland games planning (**Marsha**)

- a. Looking for volunteers to staff promotional tent. Dance with the Try-it sessions each afternoon. September 20, 21, 22 – please contact Merrill. She will also have a note sent to membership.

C. Membership drive planning (**Anne**)

- a. Will send out a note to membership reminding them to renew in the next week or two.
- b. We have 18 new members based on people who signed up at/after Pinewoods.
- c. Please talk to each other as we all attend classes.
- d. Do we want to put a note on our Facebook page? Yes, please. Linda will create a post; Alena will help as needed.
- e. Policy states that the email reminder should go out late July, but it makes more sense to send it out late August/early September.

V. Scheduled reports from liaisons

A. Teaching & Music Committee (**Kat**)

- a. Cathy suggested that checks should go directly to the treasurer for Pinewoods in future.
- b. Cathy will investigate what it might cost to add musical instruments/musicians' insurance.
- c. TMC needs to know who the next co-chairs for Highland Ball once we know.
- d. Safety procedures about sexual harassment are being investigated and being updated according to the recent alleged incident. More to come later.

B. Boston Scottish Country Dancers (**Marsha**)

- a. No news. Dancing in November for the concert.
- b. Linda is scheduling a date for the leadership team to meet and discuss the future of the leadership team.

C. Highland Ball (**Marsha**)

- a. Since Dawn has expressed willingness to chair the Ball, Linda will not going to re-send Susie's email to all the teachers unless Dawn doesn't commit. May 10th, the hall is already booked.
- b. Perpetual calendar: Budget due in January rather than November?

D. Nominating Committee (**Marsha**)

- a. Marsha to ask the committee who the new chair is.

E. Fall Concert (**Cathy**)

- a. Last Sunday in November. Targeting late September to send post cards. Posters will be prepared soon, along with contacting all the various organizations to let them know the event is happening.
- b. Before-concert-slide show: Cathy will reach out to each class teacher to submit pictures of the dance space, or the town, or people of each class.
- c. Post save-the-date to the Facebook event page.
- d. Tickets are live. RSCDS website has been updated. Scottish Fish website needs to be updated, Cathy to remind them.

F. ESCape (**Connie**)

- a. Official de-brief will be next month. Approx 134 people in attendance. Made a profit.

G. Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (**Kat**)

- a. Alisdair Fraser has neither confirmed nor denied for next year, but will know soon.
- b. Numbers for 2024 were as expected. The final budget tally is not yet complete, but likely close to “worst case” scenario.
- c. Despite low numbers, most feedback was positive. Job coordination was a little off, should be better next year.
- d. People were generally happy about the attending teenagers. Babies 0-12 had more mixed reviews.
- e. Co-chairs would like to be CC-ed on emails between exec/TMC/etc.

H. Membership (**Anne**)

- a. See notes above.

I. Website and Calendar (**Robert**)

- a. Robert let Meyer know he is now liaison. Please have Jeremy add Robert to post on RSCDS Calendar.
- b. Who’s Who will be handed from Linda to Robert to update and post as needed.

J. Equipment (**Connie**)

- a. Nothing to report. We may need a reminder to classes that sound and equipment needs to be reimbursed for travel and free admission.
- b. Linda to draft this year’s version of the President’s letter to include this information.

K. Publicity and Social Media (**Alena**)

- a. Committee to meet – Kat and Alena to schedule via Zoom.
- b. Karen is going to teach a class at Cambridge Center for Adult Education. Alena to help nudge for confirmation.
- c. It’s been a couple of years since the initiative started. Is this still something important, or should we hire a consultant? Alena to check with Coriana about services and a quote.
- d. Some classes have FB pages, but not all.
- e. Come up with a sheet of information that can be given to teachers to advertise their own classes?
- f. Anne is teaching a class at the Scarborough Adult Ed. in the fall. No one has signed up yet.

L. Loon Mountain Games (3rd weekend Sept) (**Marsha**)

- a. See notes above.

M. Bookstore (**Emily**)

- a. Bookstore at Pinewoods was wonderful, although we had some snags with the wifi for credit cards for session 1, Chris was able to sort it out for us by session 2 (which I am grateful for to not walk to the greeter shed so often!). We sold a great number of the CD's and books consigned by the staff musicians and teachers. I went through and picked a few copies of each of the new CD's to add to the bookstore inventory as we haven't added many new CD's in quite some time. The bookstore also did an order last month of the Ed Rawson award books (A guide to SCD and the 3rd edition CD that accompanies it) from headquarters. We ordered 25 of each, even though we only had 18 award winners at the moment, so we could replenish the stock in the bookstore as well. I will be sending the reimbursement request to Cathy and Billing SDCEA for the books & CD's they needed accordingly this week. SDCEA will keep ownership of what is not distributed.

The bookstore is out of Book 53 again, I will be making another order of them as one has been requested already, I'm thinking it would make sense to order 6 copies of everything (Book and CD set) so we have 5 left in the store for now. I will make an announcement at Monday night class to see if anyone else is looking for it still as well. There are a few other numbered books the store is out of as well, though last I checked headquarters was also out, so that may have to wait until they restock.

N. Tartan Times (**Linda**)

- a. The theme is Youth Movement for this edition. Articles have been written, and production is going smoothly at the moment.

VI. Miscellaneous:

A. report on Dancing on the Greenway “outreach” event (**Linda** and **Kat**)

- a. Had a good group of dancers, and passersby joined as well. Worthwhile endeavor, and we ought to do it again.
- b. Kat was fun, clear, and full of enthusiasm as MC/Teacher. Susie was also an amazing band leader.

VII. Continuing business:

A. Draft report to the membership on the results of the survey on gender-neutral terminology for SCD.

- a. Deb/Kat/Connie/Linda drafted a result based on information provided.
- b. Do we want to post the comments to all members? Kat suggested posting a letter along with a link to all comments. Kat can create a link for all to view. Perhaps with a trigger warning for the homophobic comments or put them in a separate tab. Class and person names will be redacted before being posted publicly. Exec needs to approve anything before offering it to the community. Results would be sent to membership and class lists (same as received the survey)
- c. Do we want to send the results/comments to Headquarters? – Yes. But we may need to decide what to say to our community.

- d. First, we report on the results to teachers and class leaders. The hope is to circulate another draft and approve it at the next meeting.

Next Meeting September 25, 2024

Optional reports:

Archives (Emily)

Liaisons for 2024-2025

Officers

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

Event Liaisons

ESCape: Connie
Equipment: Connie

Boston Scottish Country Dancers: Marsha
Nominating Committee: Marsha
Highland Ball: Marsha
Calendar: Marsha
NH Highland Games: Marsha

TMC: Kat
Scottish Sessions Pinewoods: Kat

Membership: Cathy

Summer's End: TBD

Tartan Times: Linda

Archives: Emily
Bookstore: Emily

Website and Calendar: Robert

Publicity: Alena

Concert: Linda

Class Liaisons

Great Barrington, MA: Emily
Northampton, MA: Emily
Albany, NY: Emily
Bedford, MA: Emily

Cambridge, MA: Robert

Greenland, NH: Dave
Nashua, NH: Dave
Lancaster, NH: Dave

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

Fairlee, VT: Connie
Salem, MA: Connie
Stow, MA: Connie
Chelmsford, MA: Connie