

RSCDS Boston Branch 2024-25
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 25, 2024, 7:15 pm

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

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

Agenda

1. Minutes from the previous meeting (**Alena**)
 - a. Approved.

2. Treasurer's report (**Cathy**)
 - a. We are just days away from fiscal year end, so next month will have a full set of numbers. We made a bit of money from ESCape and the concert, perhaps a bit short from Pinewoods. No new surprises from this past month. Membership renewals are not reflected in this report. Cash in bank is approximately \$70,000 including the Savings CD.

3. Reports from Class Liaisons

Great Barrington, MA: *Emily* (**Ted Randolph**) No reports received.
Northampton, MA: *Emily* (**Ilene Goldstein**) Classes began September 1st.
Albany, NY: *Emily* (**Barb Bemis** and **Lois New**) No reports received.
Bedford, MA: *Emily* (**Heather Day**) Weekly dancing continues

Cambridge, MA: *Robert* (**Alex**) About 3 sets in class, and has been going well.

Greenland, NH: Dave Two classes so far this season. Made contact with local radio (Calleigh) show, who will make a shout-out to classes.

Nashua, NH: Dave (**Loren**) Sounds like a pretty good class. Enough for a set.
Planning for the new years dance.

Lancaster, NH: Dave (**Bill Tobin**) no news. They will likely start up this week, after the Highland games.

Kennebunk, ME: Anne (**Merrill Henderson**) Started up on September 8. Same situation as Brunswick with attendance right now. Two of the three new people who joined the class last spring have returned.

Belfast, ME: Anne (**Dawn Little**) Belfast has 3 new dancers, 2 total beginners, which is exciting.

Bucksport, ME: Anne (**Dawn Little**) All great here in DownEast Maine.

Gayle and Donna have officially retired from teaching the weekly class in Belfast, and I have taken over the role and now have 2 classes to plan each week! I am happy to be able to do this so they can just come and dance. Both classes have between 10 and 18 dancers each week.

Brunswick, ME: *Anne* (**Patti Tillotson**) Started back up on September 5. Only have 3 couples, due to travel and physical ailments. Dance party coming up on October 19, in Topsham with musicians Katie McNally and Beth Murray. Patti requests subsidy support for the musicians. Last year, we (the ex comm) agreed that dance parties held in the early months of our membership year would use the previous year's class count to determine the amount of the subsidy. Brunswick had 13 members.

Moved, approved for subsidy. Alena, please email Anne to let her know

Fairlee, VT: *Connie* Autum Social 10/26. Number of graduate students who are excited to dance.

Salem, MA: *Connie* (**MaryEllen Scannell**) continue to meet each week in Beverly, still looking for space in Salem. Susie is planning a flash-mob for October 20th. Pinewoods Benefit Ball and 50th Anniversary of Salem need a new venue, as the Old Town Hall quadrupled their prices.

Stow, MA: *Connie* They will be starting this week. September 15th was a picnic with about 20 people.

Chelmsford, MA: *Connie* (**Rebecca**) Received grant money, and working on an additional grant application for the upcoming year. This allows the class to charge \$3 per person and still provide full payment for musicians and hall rental.

Scheduled Business

- a. PW Scottish Sessions 2024 debrief (**Marc and Keira Hartstein**)
 - i. Finances/Attendance – less attendance than hoped. Session I met the target of 125 beds (Final 127). Session II did not meet the target of 120 beds (Final 110). PCI Minimum is typically 115, which was waived this year due to last minute drop-outs and their appreciation that we are actively doing work to improve our numbers. Bottom line was just around where budgeted, current estimate is a loss of about \$500. This is due to a number of donations. If we had not received those donations, we would have been short \$2,000. There were fewer people signing up for both sessions compared to historical data.
 - ii. Inclusion – made a number of efforts to improve implementation. Policy was changed to add youth within PCI guidelines, which was well received. Concern about interaction between teens and adults while skinny-dipping. There was no incident. No action required. For next year, co-chairs will review materials to help set expectations for parent of youth who might be attending.
 - iii. Babies – 2 babies in Session I and 1 in session II. General mood was positive with some concerns about wearing the baby while dancing. They responded to medical regarding heat and humidity – activity

was adjusted accordingly. May add a line about “if camp is full, there may not need to be space for a pack-n-play in the hall.” There was also concern about young people in beginner classes, but no action is required, as camp is a good place for beginners to learn to dance.

- iv. Gender Neutral Calling – feedback was “not negative”. Not as fractious as previous years. The MCs were matter-of-fact about what they’re going to do. Next year, at least one of the teachers will be in practice of gender-neutral teaching. Several younger folks attended Scottish due to inclusion of gender-neutral calling.
 - v. Covid – 1 case was caught at the gate with mandatory tests and flew home the following day. 1 positive test on Sunday who took an extra test, isolated and left camp with spouse. No spread. People were good about testing and pleased to not need to wear masks. Covid Test bulk buy was a good service, even with hiccups in the supply chain. Some people were displeased with PCI’s policy about testing positive over a timeframe. Even if PCI permits, if the covid landscape looks the same as 2024 next year, some people may not attend. Co-chair recommendation that if a camper tests positive, they should not come to camp. To be discussed in future meetings.
 - vi. Camper Jobs - Received a lot of complaints about how jobs were assigned this past year and make changes going forward.
 - vii. Sexual Harassment – Report of sexual harassment was presented previously from an alternate source. In future years, branch and co-chairs will make clear to attendees via the Gazette and during announcements about how to report such an incident so it can be addressed in a timely, fair, and appropriate manner while at camp. Marc proposes a permanent record passed to future co-chairs, ESCape, and TMC about any previous incidents or names.
- b. PW ESCape 2024 debrief (**Connie Kent**)
- i. Great Success. 159 registrants (waitlist of 10). All of whom were able to attend. Final camper number was 139. No covid reports in or after camp. Financials are final.
 - ii. We split 50% of shortfall or surplus with CDS Boston. This year RSCDS Boston Branch surplus was \$1,637.17
 - iii. Secret of success: having a welcoming community – founded on principle of inclusivity. Everyone is likely to be here to learn at a non-expert level.
- c. SAGM date: Nov. 4 (election eve) or Nov 11 (Veterans Day)?
- i. November 11th SAGM voted and approved.
- d. HQ AGM delegates
- i. Four exec members will be delegates to AGM and vote for bi-laws and vacant positions in HQ. This year: *Kat Dutton, Cathy Crabtree, Linda McJannet, Robert McOwen*. "Since our meeting, we have been

assigned a fifth delegate (*Marsha Byrnes*). Also, anyone may attend in person (in Scotland) at their own cost.

Scheduled reports from liaisons.

4. Teaching & Music Committee (**Kat**)
 - a. Minutes archive – not all minutes are posted on the website. Alena will include Susie in the email with the unapproved minutes directly after the meetings.
 - b. See who's who for updated officers.
5. Boston Scottish Country Dancers (**Marsha**)
6. Highland Ball (**Marsha**)
 - a. Dawn Hathaway has agreed to be chair for this coming year. Looking for co-chair.
7. Nominating Committee (**Marsha**)
8. Fall Concert (**Cathy**)
9. ESCape (**Connie**)
10. Scottish Sessions Pinewoods 2025 (**Kat**)
11. Membership (**Anne**)
12. Website and Calendar (**Robert**)—final check of updated Who's Who
13. Equipment (**Connie**)
14. Publicity and Social Media (**Alena**)
15. Loon Mountain Games 2024 (**Marsha**)
16. Bookstore (**Emily**)
17. Tartan Times (**Linda**)
18. Miscellaneous: Might we talk about appreciation gifts? – table to next meeting.
19. Continuing business:
 - a. Final review of report to the membership on the results of the survey on gender-neutral terminology for SCD; decision on how to share open-ended responses
 - i. Keep text to summary report – it got too long with pie charts in the text.
 - ii. Show all pie charts in appendix (or link) - good transparency.
 - iii. Do not share any survey comments – protect anonymity.
 - b. Kat will give Linda the appendix/link to send along with the summary Word doc. The final will be sent as PDF. The last draft will be sent around exec before it goes to branch members.

Next Meeting October 30, 2024, 7:15 PM

Alena and Emily will not be able to attend next meeting. Kat Dutton will take notes.

Adjourned 9:25pm

Optional reports:

Archives (Emily); Calendar (Marsha)

Liaisons for 2024-2025

Officers

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

Event and Other Liaisons

ESCAPE: Connie
Equipment: Connie

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

TMC: Kat
Scottish Sessions Pinewoods: Kat

Membership: Anne

Summer's End: Anne

Tartan Times: Linda

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