

# **RSCDS Boston Branch**

## **Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, November 29, 2023, 7:15pm

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

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

- I. Minutes from the previous meeting (**Alena/Emily**)
  - a. Approved pending edits.
- II. Treasurer's report (**Cathy**)
  - a. Since last year, we have had a very slight net increase as a branch. Tied with last year on membership dues. The Fall Concert has come and gone, we did not lose money, and sold 75% of the tickets, but the numbers are not yet final.
- III. Class liaison reports
  - Great Barrington, MA: **Ted** nothing new to report
  - Northampton, MA: **Ted** no news
  - Albany, NY: **Ted** Fall frolic was a success.

Greenland, NH: **Anne** they may break until after Christmas.

Nashua, NH: **Anne**

Kennebunk, ME: **Anne** will be breaking until the end of December.

Belfast, ME: **Anne** no news

Brunswick, ME: **Anne** will be breaking until after Christmas.

Bucksport, ME: **Anne** no news

Lancaster, NH: **David** no news

Fairlee, VT: **David** classes are going well.

Cambridge, MA: **Kat** holiday part is December 18<sup>th</sup>. Class is going well.

Bedford, MA: **Emily** continues to dance.

Salem, MA: **Connie** No news about class, but questions posed by MaryEllen to be discussed later.

Stow, MA: **Connie** Only danced once in Nov. with about 1 set.

Chelmsford, MA: **Connie** No news

Scheduled business:

- IV. Preliminary report on concert/ceilidh, Nov. 12 (**Linda**)
  - a. Linda, Robert and Cathy will meet tomorrow. Very successful event. More than 110 people got up to dance during intermission. Please send any photos

to Linda. They plan to post on FB about how it went with photos, but also email the ticket purchasers from this year to say “thank you” and invite them next year. TicketLeap: 42 students, 174 adults, 40 RSCDS members.

Reports from liaisons:

- V. Teaching & Music Committee (**Kat**)
  - a. Branch Zoom account – John Crabtree will do this soon and will be an organizer until further notice.
  - b. Budget presentation meeting dates – Highland Ball and ESCape to present to exec in January. Scottish Pinewoods to present to exec on January 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - c. Ball program is mostly finalized. MaryEllen will work with MCs to coordinate booklet language to match terms. Would like to post dance etiquette poster from HQ at the greeting table or elsewhere at the Highland Ball. Also perhaps to give the MC to announce.
  - d. Gender neutral polling – Would like to get that sent out soon. Wording and design are crucial. The goal of this poll is to nudge toward solutions to gender neutral teaching. Kat, Connie, Debbie, and maybe Alex to form sub-committee to send out the poll after the workshop and the new year. Kat will chair.
  - e. Pinewoods – most teachers and musicians are hired. We need to develop rules for kids at Pinewoods from Chris to expand the discretion for children who dance and may not be attending with a staff member.
- VI. Boston Scottish Country Dancers (**Marsha**)
  - a. Enjoyed the concert. Talking about Burns’ night gig at British Officers Club. No formal report.
- VII. Highland Ball (**Marsha**)
  - a. Ball Budget to be submitted at Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Nothing new to report.
- VIII. Nominating Committee (**Marsha**)
  - a. They have their marching orders and will start working to find new exec members.
- IX. Fall 2023 Concert (**Linda**)
  - a. See prior report.
- X. ESCape (**Connie**)
  - a. Working with plans for next year. Budget is ready to be presented to exec. A couple more staff positions that may or may not need to be filled.
- XI. Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (**Kat**)
  - a. Nothing significant except for children’s policy. Looking for ways to ensure younger dancers can attend pinewoods. Chris said that it is up to us to invite children. There may be additional rules, which Linda hasn’t received yet. Kids 0-3 do not count towards “beds” used. May need to plan for kids’ programs/classes. Possible to drop the 15-year age requirement as early as this year – Kiera and Marc are on board. Parent/guardians are fully responsible for the behavior of the children. Approved by exec. Kat will bring the information to the chairs. Dancers of any age are welcome – to be recommended by family/classes. Connie will bring the conversation to ESCape as well.

- XII. Membership (**Anne**)
  - a. Currently 210 members have all been entered in the database. Email went out Nov 13<sup>th</sup> to 104 individuals, 23 renewed from that email. 3 people asked to be removed from the list. Members have until this Friday to renew and get into the directory.
  - b. Is there a way to continue to be a part of the community when they don't dance? (conversation for future meeting)
- XIII. Website (**David**) and Calendar (**Marsha**)
  - a. Website - Tartan Times has been posted. 4 most recent issues are now posted, with digital archives available. Print versions: Barbara volunteered to scan them and send the Meyer to be posted. Exec agrees to make Tartan Times its own page/tab, and label it "Newsletter". David will ask Meyer to make this change.
  - b. Calendar – How to prevent scheduling conflicts and create a calendar that people will look at and encourage use. Email with a link to the calendar, or list with hyper-links. Save the date and reminder emails are already being sent for branch events. Linda brought up the idea of sending the reminder email with a photo or something more inviting to recipients. Should we use something like MailChimp or Constant Contact? Meyer has figured out how to make emails more eye catching (embedded flyer or photo). David will confirm.
- XIV. Equipment (**Connie**)
  - a. Thom was having some trouble with his email but seems to have been fixed now. No other reports.
- XV. Publicity and Social Media (**Alena**)
  - a. Zoom meeting will be next Thursday 12/10 for brainstorming.
- XVI. Loon Mountain Games (3<sup>rd</sup> weekend Sept) (**Marsha**)
  - a. No reports.
- XVII. Bookstore (**Emily**)
  - a. No report.
- XVIII. Tartan Times (**Emily/Linda**)
  - a. We have ideas and articles for the next issue. Story-telling theme: "how did you get into Scottish?" Next issue to come out early January.
  - b. Evolving design and delivery method—fewer borders? Mail-chimp?
  - c. Recommendations from readers

New Business:

- XIX. Proposed adjustments to the Exec perpetual calendar – please read and respond to Linda's email.

Motion and approved to adjourn.

Next Meeting January 3, 2024 7:15