

## **Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Dance Society**

### **Minutes of the Executive Committee**

October 28, 2015

**Present:** Andrea Aeschlimann, Cathy Crabtree, Kat Dutton, Cathy Goode, Susan Haines, Merrill Henderson, Linda McJannet, Jeremy Thorpe

**Absent:** Janet Anderson, Dale Birdsall

**Guest:** Emily Peterson

1. **Minutes from the September 30, 2015 meeting** – The minutes were approved after correcting a spelling error in the Treasurer’s Report and a clarification concerning the Stonington class’s insurance coverage in the Membership Report.
2. **Treasurer’s Report** (Cathy C.) – The September statement is a sub-period as the Branch moves to its new year. A slight decrease is noted due to no income for that short window of time (holding membership monies and the first ticket monies for the Concert). For the October 28 report, the Main Checking account is at \$37,288.28 and the Lloyds account is at \$440.49 to bring the Total Current Assets to \$37,728.77.
3. **Reports from Liaisons** –
  - a) Fall Concert (November 7, 2015) (Linda) – The first paper ad is in the Boston Globe and the ticket requests are dribbling in. Everyone is asked to “Like and Share” on Facebook to help with advertising and supporting the Concert. The Demonstration Team is working hard, and most of the volunteer jobs have been filled.
  - b) Highland Ball (May 14, 2016) (Cathy G.) – Emily Peterson (along with Laurie Somario via telephone) presented the budget. The Ball lost money last year, so they are looking at various ways to save a little money. The proposed ticket price would increase from \$75 to \$80 for RSCDS members and \$80 to \$85 for non-RSCDS members. If allowed, Hannah McArdle could do the desserts, which also would save money. Laurie will check concerning bringing in our own desserts with Kathy who oversees the hall. Either Laurie or Emily will also check with the caterer. The theme for the Ball is “Black and White.” For the future, the hall is very nice, but we have to pay for Security and a Restoration fee, so we should keep looking for another hall.
  - c) ESC (July 4 – 8, 2016) (Kat) – Jeremy reported that CDS had been paid, so our profits for ESC 2015 are approximately \$3700. CDS Boston has approved going ahead with ESC 2016. The committee consists of Meaghan Murray, Dan Blim, and Kat Dutton.
  - d) Scottish Pinewoods Sessions (July 8 – 16, 2016) (Linda) – The theme this year will be “Under the Big Top.” Work has been done on the class grid in order to find a reliable place for the music workshops and concert. Jen Schoonover will be teaching Highland and Cape Breton Dance, and the “slow jam” will occur after lunch. The plan is to not use as many camper teachers as

was done last year. There will be a regular teacher's choice class, and the beginners will have a fundamental class.

- e) New Hampshire Highlands (August 26 – 28, 2016) (Susan) – The committee recently held a teleconference to plan for 2016. Short lists were made for the music director and for teachers. Roberta Lasnik will be calling to invite those people.
- f) New Hampshire Highland Games (September 2016) (Merrill) – Nothing to report at this time.
- g) Teaching and Music Committee (Linda) – At their last meeting, the committee spent time reviewing the Pinewoods class grid, re-thinking and re-arranging the Ball program, and discussing possible workshops. They also discussed the possibility of utilizing some of the earlier or later smaller weekends at Pinewoods. These weekends could involve 40 to 60 people who would have use of some portions of the camp but probably would require cooking and doing other work for themselves. This discussion was tabled until December.
- h) *Tartan Times* (Kat) – The next issue will be sent out tomorrow (October 29<sup>th</sup>) and then Evelyn will be out of town. Barbara will be traveling when much of the work for the Jan/Feb edition is being done. The preliminary Ball flyer will be needed by December 12<sup>th</sup>. Perhaps someone should offer to help Evelyn. There will be more conversations concerning help next month.
- i) Demonstration Team (Kat) – There is not much to report other than that the team has been working on choreography for the fall concert, and they have signed up to dance once again for the BMCFest. A budget is still needed.
- j) Membership (Dale) - MaryEllen Scannell reports that as of October 28<sup>th</sup>, there are 201 Branch members and 17 associate members. There are 53 individual and 3 associate members who were members last year but have not yet rejoined. There are also 17 first time Branch members and 4 first time associate members
- k) Nominating Committee (Dale) – Nothing to report at this time.
- l) Website and Publicity (Kat) – Nothing to report at this time.
- m) Bookstore (Merrill) – The Bookstore was at the Brunswick dance. An updated list is needed for the website.
- n) Calendar (Jeremy) – Should the Branch calendar be moved to Google Calendar. It could allow multiple people to edit it and upload fliers, etc. Those invited to edit it would include members of Exec, some members of the Teaching and Music Committee, some members of the Cambridge Class, some class contacts, and the Webmasters. Exec approved moving forward with utilizing Google Calendar.
- o) Class Liaisons –
  - Salem, MA (Andrea) – All is going well with the class and with helping to manage the non-profit at the church. On November 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:15 PM, there will be a ribbon cutting for The Bridge (the non-profit) and the class has been invited to dance. MaryEllen met with the new stewards concerning using the hall for 24 hours on December 5<sup>th</sup> for the

workshop and the Ball, and they will clean up the balcony of the church. The class also had a great Halloween party.

- Chelmsford, MA (Cathy C.) – The last class had about 20 dancers with Laura DeCesare leading the dancing and Dirke Tiede providing music.
- Newton, MA (Cathy C.) – There is a steady group meeting each Wednesday.
- Nashua, NH (Linda) – The last class had 1 set and live music. The program has been finalized for the New Year's Day Dance, and music will be provided by Katie McNally, Catherine Miller, and Terry Traub.
- Belfast, ME (Linda) – The class had a fun Halloween party. Elke Baker and Liz Donaldson will be the musicians for the May 28, 2016 party.
- Brunswick, ME (Merrill) – The October 18 party had wonderful music, warmth, and a great start to the Fall. There were 5 sets of dancers, and music was provided by Terry Traub and Catherine Miller. Patti Tillotson send her thanks to those people from out of state who came up to support them.

Patti has encouraged Branch membership, and over half of the class has joined, including 2 Life members who joined as Associate members.

Patti is requesting a music subsidy of \$265. Exec approved this request.

- Kennebunkport, ME (Merrill) – The class has been averaging a set or more, and several people have come in to try it out.
- Greenland, NH (Merrill) – The class has met twice with Laurie teaching and Merrill helping on the administrative end.
- Cambridge, MH (Kat) – The class is doing well. Charles Liu and Lance Ramshaw have been teaching and Barbara McOwen has been providing music. Their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was held on October 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Brookline, MA (Kat) – The class has had declining turnout and would like to increase their publicity and to invite the newer teachers to teach. Kat will work to get the Brookline class its own page on the website.

**4. Old Business – none**

**5. New Business –**

- a) SAGM Agenda – Please arrive at 7:15 PM to setup, and Exec should provide snack foods.

**6. Next Meetings –**

- a) December 5 – at The Bridge, Salem at 4:00 PM
- b) ?January 6
- c) ?January 27