

**Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Dance Society**  
**Minutes of the Executive Committee**  
September 27, 2017

**Present:** Janet Anderson, Marsha Byrnes, Sue Chari, Cathy Crabtree, Sharon Gilmour, Cathy Goode, Susan Haines, Jeffrey Hopper, John Salyards, Jeremy Thorpe

1. **Minutes from the August 30, 2017 meeting** – The minutes were accepted with one spelling correction in the Newton Class news.
2. **Treasurer's Report** (Cathy C.) – Cathy reports that the current total liabilities and assets are \$44,152.61, including \$3,370.41 prepaid as deposits for the Highland Ball and the November Concert. Nearly \$6000 has been collected for Memberships, and Cathy would like to send most of the membership fees to Headquarters in November and not in several smaller increments. There are no other outstanding expenses for Pinewoods or ESCape except for the \$400 in profit to be sent to CDSS. The September 23<sup>rd</sup> workshop had about 40 attendees and produced a profit of approximately \$240.
3. **Beginners Class** – If the Branch is going to provide a Beginners Class, should it be done in conjunction with an Adult Education Class, should we do it ourselves, or do we include it as part of the Cambridge Class? What do we want to see in this class? It was felt that being involved in an Adult Education Class would be a good idea. The New York Branch had found success when offering both a Fall and Spring semester class. There are several questions still to be answered, such as the minimum or maximum number of students, would the attendees pay up-front as an incentive to continue attending, are background checks required for the teachers, would the contract be with the Branch or with the teacher, and would there be something like a class party or ball at the end of the class? Ideally, the location should be near public transportation. Let's try one class to see if it will work. Exec members should look at their local education centers as possible sites. Characteristics of the ideal teacher are someone fun, enthusiastic, encouraging, and understanding of individual limitations.
4. **Reports from Liaisons** –
  - a) Fall Concert (November 11, 2017) (Cathy C.) – Cathy reports that publicity is going well with the postcards, information on various websites, and postings in bookstores, music stores, and libraries. The volunteers are also coming forward. The Demonstration team, now known as Boston Scottish Country Dance, has been working hard, and Robert McOwen, as the Artistic Director, has been developing some interesting choreography.
  - b) Equipment (Jeffrey and Jeremy) – There has been an expressed need for teachers to have access to wireless headsets, both at Pinewoods and other

venues. Currently, there is no equipment for C# Minor. Carl Mastrandrea, the Executive Director of Pinewoods, has requested equipment in the budget to be discussed at the October Pinewoods Camp, Inc. Board Meeting, so there should be equipment for us to use next summer. We know that the Branch owns one dying headset that is transmitting illegal signals.

Jeff is obtaining an inventory of the Branch equipment from Peter Tandy, and the Teaching and Music Committee will let us know what equipment they think we need.

- c) Highland Ball (May 19, 2018) (Cathy C.) – The contract has been sent to Memorial Hall (\$880 for 9 hours). Kat Dutton has agreed to help with the Ball preparations but needs assistance. Jeremy is working on finding a task person to keep everyone on track. The budget should be based on the budget for Highland Ball 2017.
- d) ESCape (July 2 – 6, 2018) (Sharon) – No information to report at this time.
- e) Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (July 6 – 14, 2018) (Cathy/Jeremy) – The dates on the website have been updated, and the teachers and musicians will be added soon. The teachers for 2018 are Helen Russell, Andrew Smith, Linda Henderson, and Laura Scott for Highland. In considering the budget amount for refreshments for the parties, the amount should be increased to better accommodate the alcohol provided.
- f) New Hampshire Highlands (August 24 – 26, 2018) (Susan) – The committee is in the process of looking for teachers and a music director for 2018.
- g) New Hampshire Highland Games (September, 2018) (Jeffrey) – The booth at the Games was quite successful with 19 people signing up and a lot of postcards being distributed. There were a total of 5 dance demonstration sessions, all with great dancer participation.
- h) Teaching and Music Committee (Janet) – The teachers and most of the musicians for 2018 are in place and considerations for 2019 are occurring. The Committee still needs to provide input on the Event User's Guide.
- i) *Tartan Times* (Susan) – Barbara reports that they have combined the two slightly-different calendars into one as requested by Exec. Evelyn reports that she is adding other Branches to her e-mail list to receive the *Tartan Times*. Some connections with these Branches was lost when the Branch decided to save money and not mail to a lot of different locations. The publicity may help with attendance at some of our events.
- j) Boston Scottish Country Dance (formerly known as the Demonstration Team) (Marsha) - In the discussions toward going to a weekly class and developing a repertoire of dances, the thought was to start in January/February to create a class and to open it to anyone so that there would always be a reserve of available dancers. The TMC does have some concerns

with this structure and the objective. Is the goal to provide a professional dance team or is it more for enjoyment? The suggestion would be to start in January to offer an advanced class geared toward those dancers who are willing to improve and that a mailing should be distributed to determine the interest level. Marsha will draft the mailing for input from Exec.

- k) Membership (Cathy G.) – MaryEllen Scannell reports that there are currently 92 Branch members and 15 Associate members. Many people who were members last year have not yet renewed their membership. The total membership for the 2016 – 2017 year was 230 Branch members and 21 Associate members.
- l) Nominating Committee (Marsha) – Nothing to report at this time.
- m) Website (Jeffrey) – Updates on dates for the Highland Ball, ESCape, and New Hampshire Highlands are needed for the website.
- n) Publicity (Janet) – There is a Branch Facebook page containing information on upcoming events.
- o) Bookstore (Cathy C.) – New Hampshire Highlands was a great success for the Bookstore. The Bookstore will make its next appearance at the Brunswick party. The compilation book for RSCDS Books 31 through 37 is due out this Fall, and the Bookstore managers plan to obtain it as soon as possible.
- p) Class liaisons –
  - Stow, MA (Sharon) – The class had two sets at their recent session, not including the social comers, and welcomed several new dancers. Their party will be on November 18<sup>th</sup> with Nora and friends providing the music.
  - Kennebunk, ME (John) – The class started on Sunday and included a couple who had gotten information at the New Hampshire Highland Games.
  - Greenland, NH (John) – The class will meet on October 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - Salem, MA (Cathy G.) –The Salem Class has sadly lost a few members over the summer, 3 couples due to infirmities and one other individual. They have begun a campaign to increase their numbers and to further share this great hobby! They had a successful showing for a parks event in Salem at the end of May, learning that the SCD group was relatively invisible to the locals until then. Many joined in the dancing and had fun. Gillian Charters has begun to work up some “copy” to distribute to schools, community centers and interest groups in and around Salem. They are hoping to make November one long recruiting event. On Sept 9<sup>th</sup>, the teachers of the Salem Class (MaryEllen Scannell, Charles Liu, Karen Sollins, Cathy Fahey, Gillian Charters, and Susie Petrov) put together an “Advanced Class.” With live music by Neil Pearlman and

Susie Petrov, during the first hour dances were taught, followed by a break and a social program. This was by invitation as many are unable to accurately assess their level of dancing. This event received support from both those who attended and those who were unable to attend but replied with support and hopes of a repeat in the future.

A good night of dancing was enjoyed by the 25 or so attendees... no sets fell apart and no dancers or musicians were harmed in the experiment! They are looking for another date for future advanced classes like this.

October is a tough month in Salem. They are not holding class on October 5<sup>th</sup> due to the city-wide parade and October 26<sup>th</sup> due to scheduling at The Bridge at 211. Their class Halloween Party is October 19<sup>th</sup>.

The Pinewoods Benefit Ball is scheduled for Dec 9<sup>th</sup> with an introduction to Book 51 in the afternoon.

- Albany, NY (Jeffrey) – The Fall Frolic is scheduled for October 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Burlington, VT (Jeffrey) – The class should start soon.
- Fairlee, VT (Jeffrey) – There were 14 attendees at their recent class, and their Fall Party is scheduled for October 21<sup>st</sup>.
- SDCEA (Janet) – The SDCEA Scholarship Dance will be held on March 24, 2018.

5. Old Business –

6. New Business –

- a) Joint Ceilidh (Cathy C.) – Robert McOwen has proposed a joint venture of Boston Scottish Country Dance with Highland Dance Boston with a joint program (still to be determined). The possible date is November 10, 2018. This would be more of a showcasing event and not necessarily a money-making event. The two groups would perform for free, and any financial gain or loss would be shared. Jeremy moved, and Janet seconded to accept the proposal and the date. The motion passed. Janet will speak with TMC about this venture.
- b) SAGM – The date for the SAGM is Monday November 6, 2017 at 7:45 PM at the Canadian-American Club in Watertown.

7. Next meetings –

- a) October 25 at 7:15 PM – phone meeting