

Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Dance Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee

August 29, 2018

Present: Marsha Byrnes, Sue Chari, Cathy Crabtree, Karen Gansz, Susan Haines, Jeffrey Hopper, John Salyards, Jeremy Thorpe

Absent: Sharon Gilmour, Winifred McGowan

Guest: Charles Liu

- 1. Minutes from the June 23, 2018 meeting** – The minutes were approved with three corrections. In the Treasurer’s Report, the Boston Scottish Country Dancers have been “making/earning” money; in the Joint Ceilidh section, the application must be submitted by the first of “August,” not July; and the date for the Highland Ball is “May 11, 2019,” not May 10, 2019.
- 2. Treasurer’s Report** (Cathy C.) – Cathy reports that the total liabilities and net assets total \$49, 691. It seems that ESCape will finish at close to breakeven this year. The Pinewoods Scottish Sessions numbers will increase slightly as one teacher has returned their honorarium.
- 3. New Business –**
 - a) Youth Membership Procedures – After much discussion and after reading the guidelines from the San Francisco Branch and from Headquarters, it was determined that we need our own guidelines. Jeremy, Jeff, and John will work on them. Some of the dos and don’ts from the RSCDS should be incorporated, i.e. one person certified as a “safe person,” first aid availability, presence of a parent or guardian, and self-policing. It was agreed that we have a Youth Membership rate for those youth ages 12 to 17. We also need to have a Youth Coordinator.
 - b) Teens at Pinewoods Scottish Sessions – ESCape allows youths aged 13 and up to attend if accompanied by a parent or guardian. For Pinewoods Scottish Sessions, the Branch Policies and Procedures state, “A parent who is attending a Scottish session as a camper may apply for admission for his or her child who is at least 15 years old and an experienced Scottish dancer or musician. Any such application must be approved in writing by the Executive Committee.” These requests would be decided on a case-by-case basis. If the youth is taking the place of a dancer who then ends up on the wait list, this is cause for concern. We could set a cap for the number of youths applying and check to see that they attend. We could also ask for a letter of recommendation from their dance teacher, and they would need to follow the same application and selection process and adult dancers. We are an

aging community and therefore need to be welcoming to new and upcoming dancers.

It was proposed and accepted “Teens 15 years or older with Scottish Country dance experience and accompanied by a parent or guardian may be admitted to Pinewoods Scottish Sessions at the discretion of the co-chairs. A maximum of 10 teens will be accepted for any Scottish session.”

- c) By-Laws Review – This year we will be reviewing and revising the By-laws to make sure they are up-to-date. John has already suggested some changes, and the final changes will be brought to the membership for approval.
- d) Equipment Loans – The Branch Policies and Procedures include a section for rental of the Branch Sound System for non-Branch events (\$25 for one night and \$50 for a weekend event). Anyone wishing to rent the sound system should negotiate the use, transport, and set-up of the equipment with Thom Howe.
- e) Candidate Class – Charles Liu presented the plan and proposed budget for Teacher Candidate Class. There are 5 candidates for Part 1 and 4 candidates for Part 2. The request for financial support from the Branch (\$1300) was accepted.
- f) Family Picnic – Charles Liu asked if Exec would approve the Branch providing financial support for the musicians playing at the family Picnic scheduled for Saturday September 8th. It was proposed and accepted that the Branch would provide financial support at a maximum of \$200 for the musicians for the Family Picnic.

4. Reports from Liaisons –

- a) Joint Ceilidh (November 10, 2018) (Cathy C.) – The poster is out, and the flyers and postcards are being made. This is a new venture for the Branch, but Highland Dance Boston has done it before, so we’ll learn from them. We are very good at organizing the volunteers. We will consider whether to do this next year or to focus on doing it perhaps every other year. Jeff has submitted the application, and we are waiting to hear about the grant from NHScots.
- b) Highland Ball (May 11, 2019) (Cathy C.) – The contract for the venue has been signed and the deposit has been paid, but we still do not have co-chairs. We do have a tentative “yes” on the band. Jeremy will contact some people who were suggested as co-chairs. If you think of anyone else, please share their names with Jeremy.
- c) ESCape (July 1–5, 2019) (Sharon) – No report at this time.
- d) Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (July 5-13, 2019) (Jeremy) – For 2019, Katherine Giacoletti has been confirmed as one of the teachers. As for camp

jobs, the lifeguard position is still a job, and the dining hall manager may once again be a job.

- e) New Hampshire Highlands (August 24-26, 2018) (Susan) – The weekend just passed. Camp was full with around 100 attendees, including 6 younger people (children of the musicians or teachers).
- f) Loon Mountain Games (September 21-23, 2018) (Jeff) – The contract has been signed. Jeff has received the wristbands and has sent some for use at the Maine Games.
- g) Teaching and Music Committee (Marsha) – In addition to the requests for financial backing for the Candidate Class and the Family Picnic, TMC has been considering doing more workshops, perhaps in remote areas, and may be able to offer video workshops.
- h) *Tartan Times* (Susan) – The Sept/Oct edition is ready for distribution.
- i) Boston Scottish Country Dancers (Marsha) – The team has not started working on their performance for the Joint Ceilidh.
- j) Membership (Susan) – No report was received.
- k) Nominating Committee (Marsha) – A couple of names were suggested for possible replacements on the Committee.
- l) Website (Jeff) – Everything is fine, and the webmasters are pleased. The site has been updated and there is room for dates. Jeremy will ask Meyer to set up a link for Thom Howe for equipment@rscdsboston.org.
- m) Bookstore (Cathy) – No report at this time.
- n) Class Liaisons –
 - Burlington, VT (Karen) – Connie Kent reports that she is planning a beginners' class for September.
 - Fairlee, VT (Karen) – The class has moved back to the Town Hall.
 - Chelmsford, MA (John) – There were 26 dancers at the August class party.
 - Brookline, MA (Sue) – The class will resume on the Sunday after Labor Day.
 - Newton, MA (Sue) – At the last class at the VFW, there were 8 dancers.
 - Cambridge, MA (Sue) – On the Monday after Pinewoods, there was a special session with Chris Harris leading and Susie Petrov playing. The remaining classes for the summer were all great. For the 2018-2019 season, the student pass will increase but the price at the door will remain the same.

5. Old Business –

6. Next Meeting –

- a) September 26 – conference call