

Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Dance Society

Minutes of the Executive Committee

January 8, 2020 (December meeting)

Present for phone meeting: Cathy Crabtree, Karen Gansz, Susan Haines, Winifred McGowan, Lance Ramshaw, Jeremy Thorpe

Absent: Marsha Byrnes, Sharon Gilmour, Linda McJannet, John Salyards

Guest: Thom Howe

- 1. Minutes from the December 4, 2019 meeting** (November meeting) – The minutes were approved with two corrections. Under the talking Points for Pinewoods Scottish Sessions, the wording for the Pinewoods Reel Demystified should state that “limited planning is required for the class,” and a closing parenthesis should be added to the Salem class liaison report at the end of Sharon’s name.
- 2. Equipment** (Thom Howe) – Thom reports that the Branch Sound System is “old and tired,” and the speakers don’t sound well. One very frustrating issue has been the broken amp channel in the external amp. Thom asked if we wanted to own a sound system large enough for the Ceilidh or would we want to replace the powered mixer board and passive speakers? The price for a mixer could run from \$700 to \$1400, and, depending on the speakers and their quality, the cost of the speakers could range from \$250 to \$500 (we would need a pair). Thom suggested purchasing an analog board because it is simpler to use. For an event such as the Highland Ball, we would need to consider including funds to rent ancillary equipment.
A question was asked – Does each venue that we use have some sound equipment in place? Thom answered that there are usually “house systems,” but they can be difficult to use and have their own nuances.
Another question was, do we need other items such as mike stands, microphones, cables, or other odds and ends? Thom will create a “must have list” and a “wish list” that we can discuss at the January meeting.
- 3. ESCape Update** (Jeremy) – Jeremy reports that Daniel Potter and April Birnie feel things are going well, and they are ready to open registration (even though we have not seen the budget) and are interested in online payments. Jeremy will look at getting it set up. The budget needs to add the new increase for camper fees and for the crossover lunch. Once the budget is corrected and the updated information has been posted on the website, then registration can officially open.
- 4. Class Requests** –
 - The Nashua Class has requested a \$365 music subsidy for their New Year’s Day Dance.

- Patti Tillotson submitted a request to be reimbursed for \$45 for an ad placed in materials for the Maine Highland Games to advertise Scottish Country Dancing. The class has been paying for it and then gets reimbursed by the Branch.

She also asked for a music subsidy of \$365 for their Annual Fall Dance Party. Patti has 2 life members who are a regular part of her class and have been for over 10 years. They never get counted for the class, and Patti would like to rectify the situation. Their names are Stephen and Louise Strong. Patti needs to remind them to pay \$20 each for their memberships and to make sure the class location is listed on their membership forms so the class will get credited with the appropriate number of members.

- All three requests for funds were approved.

5. Other Business –

- Could a ride-share section be set up on the website? Some events have hospitality coordinators to help with arranging transportation, but it is a good thought.
- Reminder- There is a dance workshop on Saturday January 11, 2020 in Fairlee, VT.
- Some unaffiliated events have been added to the website by Jeremy.
- Do we have an at-large member for the Teaching and Music Committee? Jeremy has asked someone and just needs to re-confirm.

6. Next Meeting –

- a. January 29 – at Marsha’s at 7:15 PM