

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

April 29, 2020

Zoom meeting: Marsha Byrnes, Cathy Crabtree, Sharon Gilmour, Susan Haines, Winifred McGowan, Linda McJannet, Lance Ramshaw, Jeremy Thorpe

Guest: Charles Liu

Absent: Karen Gansz, John Salyards

- 1. Minutes from the March 25, 2020 meeting** – The minutes were approved with three corrections. The total liabilities and net assets in the Treasurer’s Report should say \$69,643.00; the class reports should include that Northampton and Great Barrington cancelled their classes for now; and Albany held its first virtual class via Zoom this week.
- 2. Treasurer’s Report (Cathy)** - Cathy reports that the cash balance is \$66,377.00. Deposits for Pinewoods are still being received. We have been refunded all but \$500 for the Highland Ball. The Albany class has been paid the music subsidy for last fall’s event. The subsidy requested by the Northampton class has not been paid because the event will probably not occur. We have not received the deposit back from Pinewoods.
Cathy also reported that we have a new energetic insurance agent who is putting our needs out to bid and trying to get a better look at our operation from a numbers-in-attendance standpoint and not from a location standpoint. The \$1056 insurance rate (from April to April) has no umbrella so it does not cover an overnight event. This will save us some money this year and probably more for next year. Cathy will find out if this is a non-issue for home Zoom classes.
- 3. New Business –**
 - a. AGM Plans – The AGM will be held on Monday June 1, 2020. A consensus of about 25 members is needed for a quorum. Two candidates are still needed for the at-large positions on Exec, plus Exec will need to find someone to fill the vacancy on the Nominating Committee.
 - b. COVID-19 response –
 - i. Highland Ball Concert and SDCEA – Katie McNally and Emily Peterson are working on the streamlining issue for the Concert using Zoom and streaming the video to YouTube/Facebook Live that can then be imbedded on our website. Katie has suggested a flat fee of \$300 per performer (9 in total). If the total donations received did not cover that amount (\$2700), the Branch would make up the difference. If the donations exceeded that amount, the extra would go to the SDCEA fund. Rebecca Gore and Jeremy have set up a Square account for the

SDCEA to accept donations to the musician fund, and Rebecca is also creating a donation form on JotForm. Once this is complete, the webmasters will be asked to add the donation link to the page where the video will be streaming. Once it is up and running, classes, event runners, and individual musicians will be able to apply for grants. A motion was made and approved to move forward with the Highland Ball Concert (on May 9th) performance and guaranteeing each performing musician \$300 with all monies being filtered through the SDCEA. This move will assist in bringing the Branch to the forefront in helping our musicians during a time when so many events are being cancelled.

- ii. Other social distancing events – The Salem and Cambridge classes are starting to provide Zoom classes every other week.
- iii. Thoughts on criteria for eventual reopening – The criteria would be based on guidance from the Department of Health and Human Services and when it was safe for 50 or more people to congregate.

4. Reports from Liaisons –

- a. Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (Jeremy) – Last month, we agreed that Elke Baker should be paid the \$350 director's fee because of the work she has already done. The questions are whether or not to pay one fee this year and another for next year or ask if she wants it now or if she wants half now and half next year.
A motion was made and approved to ask Elke if she would like half of her fee now and half next year or if she wants to just wait until next year. Jeremy will have Laurie Somario ask Elke.
- b. ESCape (Sharon) – No report at this time.
- c. Equipment (John) – No report at this time.
- d. Loon Mountain Games (Karen) – Merrill Henderson reports that NHSCOT has the Loon Mountain Games listed on both their web and Facebook pages as though the Games will occur. She does not see how they can, but she will keep following.
- e. Joint Ceilidh (November 2020) (Cathy) – No report at this time.
- f. Teaching and Music Committee (Marsha) – The Committee has discussed inviting the 2020 teachers to return for 2021. They also discussed perhaps doing a Pinewoods Ceilidh.
- g. Boston Scottish Country Dancers (Marsha) – There are no events scheduled for the team.
- h. Nominating Committee (Marsha) – Nominations are still needed for the two vacant at-large positions on the Executive Committee.
- i. New Hampshire Highlands (Susan) – Nothing to report at this time.

- j. *Tartan Times* (Susan) – Evelyn Murray and Barbara McOwen are thinking of putting together a Virus-inspired issue which would cover the months April, May, June, and July. Everything in these months has been cancelled as far as everyone knows, so they plan to review the situation at the end of July.
- k. Membership (Susan) – MaryEllen Scannell reports that John has now retired, so they would like to relinquish their positions as the membership co-chairs. They will need to know where to send the files once a replacement(s) is found.
- l. Website (Lance) – The webmasters have been talking with Rebecca Gore concerning adding the SDCEA donation link to support the musicians. They would be interested in suggestions on how to organize the information/link.
- m. Bookstore (Cathy) – The Bookstore managers need to know how many Ed Rawson award winners there are, so they will be certain to have enough books for them.
- n. Class Liaisons –
 - Brunswick, ME (Karen) – Patti Tillotson reported that she was extremely excited about the events of last night. Last night, at what would have been a regular class time, Patti taught through Zoom and it went well. Almost everyone in the class participated. She plans to do it until they can all get together again. Before that, she was sending out an email on Thursdays with a couple questions about various figures and steps and asking them to name some teaching points. She was nicely surprised at how much the dancers remembered. She just wanted to keep them engaged!
 - Salem, MA (Sharon) – Salem has been doing an online class.
 - Stow, MA (Sharon) – The Stow class has been helping Lois New from Albany with her Zoom class.
 - Northampton, MA (Winifred) – The class is still hoping to be able to do their party in November.

5. Old Business –

6. Next Meeting –

- a. May 27 at 7:15 PM via Zoom