

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

May 27, 2020

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

Guest: Kat Dutton

Absent: Karen Gansz

1. **Minutes from the April 29, 2020 meeting** – The minutes were approved as submitted.
2. **Treasurer's Report (Cathy)** - Cathy reports that the cash balance is \$60,516.00. The income and expenses have changed very little. Pinewoods refunds are being made to campers, and the Pinewoods deposit has been received. We have not heard from the ESCape co-chairs to know what is being done with their funds. Cathy reports that the new insurance agent saved us a small amount on the general liability and equipment coverage. Hall rental for the Boston Scottish Country Dancers was paid for the fall and spring, but we're waiting to see if we'll be refunded for the five weeks that were not used this spring. For Pinewoods expenses, Ellen Scannell-Woods was reimbursed for the printing of postcards, plus we're waiting to find out whether or not one of the teachers will be refunded their travel expense from the airline company.
3. **Reports from Liaisons** –
 - a. Highland Ball Concert Report (Jeremy) – Jeremy had previously posted a synopsis of the results of the concert.
 - Total donations are around \$4800 now, with 66 donors, for an average donation of \$70-75. (That means we raised more than double the \$2400 we need to pay out, so the fund should be well established!)
 - Around 2/3 of those making donations were members or frequent Boston area dancers, 1/3 not.
 - Facebook says our post reached 5300 people and had 2600 views and 1587 engagements. Only about 130 were watching at any one time on Saturday, but a lot of people have been watching it since then.
 - Only 5 people (8%) opted not to add the 3% to cover credit card fees.
 - Our RSCDS Boston Facebook page has gone from under 50 members to over 300.
 - There were a few technical glitches (particularly during Cam's set), but overall the audio quality exceeded my (Jeremy's) expectations,

and going by the comments posted as the concert progressed, it was an excellent community-building exercise. Now that the framework is in place (and our audience established), Jeremy would be excited to see further streaming concerts and events.

- SDCEA is gearing up to announce the application form, probably tonight. (Jeremy has already applied for our grant.)
- Thank you all for your support!

- b. Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (July 10-18, 2020) (Jeremy) – Kat Dutton joined in on the conversation. There were discussions concerning both a Ceilidh and a staff concert. A motion was made and passed by Exec to hold a (pre-recorded) Ceilidh on one Saturday night during the time when Scottish Sessions would be occurring. The profits would benefit Pinewoods Camp Inc. and the SDCEA Musicians Fund. A second motion was made and passed by Exec to hold a Staff Concert on the other Saturday night during the time when Scottish Sessions would be occurring. The profits gained through donations from the Concert would be distributed amongst the staff musicians, probably in the amount of about \$300 per musicians (perhaps 11 musicians). This proposal will be offered to Elke Baker for her input.
- c. ESCape (July 6-10, 2020)(Sharon) – Because ESCape is also associated with CDS Boston Center, the decision on where or how their funds will be spent or distributed will be left to the co-chairs to determine.
- d. Equipment (John) – John reports that Thom Howe has started the process to sell the old equipment. He has received \$40 for the speakers.
- e. Loon Mountain Games (Karen) – Merrill Henderson reports that NHScot finally has a note on their website that they are considering what to do about this year's New Hampshire games and will provide an update in early to mid-June.
- f. Joint Ceilidh (November 2020) (Linda) – The committee has met, but, given the current COVID-19 situation, it is uncertain if the venue would be able to support this event. No decisions will be made until there is more information. The group will meet again in July. To date, we still have not been refunded our deposit.
- g. Teaching and Music Committee (Marsha) – Two replacements are still needed for the committee. The TMC has proposed that Robert McOwen stay on and move from a musician position to an at-large position, and Elizabeth Anderson would step into the musician vacancy. Charles Liu will be writing and presenting the TMC Report at the AGM. Debbie Jarvis will be speaking with Julie Mullen concerning the list of musicians who are eligible to receive funds from the SDCEA.
- h. Boston Scottish Country Dancers (Marsha) – No report at this time.

- i. Nominating Committee (Marsha) – A replacement is needed for the committee, and the request will be made at the upcoming AGM.
- j. New Hampshire Highlands (August 28 – 30, 2020) (Susan) – Camp Methodios will not be operating this summer, so New Hampshire Highlands is cancelled.
- k. *Tartan Times* (Susan) – Barbara McOwen reports that she and Evelyn Murray will be starting on the July issue in the middle of June. She says that John Crabtree is interested in a new publishing program called Affinity Publisher. Barbara is quite comfortable with Adobe InDesign, but it has become increasingly expensive and troublesome. Affinity is being nicknamed the “Adobe Killer,” is inexpensive (\$25 one-time payment with no rentals necessary), and will port InDesign documents over to Affinity. Barbara is going to download Affinity and try using it for the next issue
- l. Membership (Susan) – MaryEllen and John Scannell are retiring as the Membership chairs. MaryEllen will be asked to prepare a job description/job criteria to be given to the next Membership chair(s).
- m. Website (Lance) – The webmasters have been posting information about the benefit concert and updating the SDCEA pages. A video page has been added and currently contains information from the Cambridge and Salem classes. Because of the influx of virtual information, the webmasters are open to any suggestion concerning organizing the site.
- n. Bookstore (Cathy) – The plans for turning over the Bookstore to the new manager have been put on hold for the moment.
- o. Class Liaisons –
 - Brunswick, ME (Karen) – Patti Tillotson reports that these last few months have brought about new ways of holding the Brunswick class. By the end of March, she started teaching the class via Zoom, which has gone quite well. This will be their 6th week. It has been an interesting experience and certainly a need for some creativity in teaching in small places and with several ghosts. All of the class members have had cooperative ghosts! It has proven to be a great way to keep the class together and chatting and dancing with each other. Several class members have been "dancing" with the RSCDS Wednesday online class.
With the hope that things will have opened up more by October, the class has gone ahead with plans for the October 17 Annual Fall Dance Party. The musicians will be Boston Hospitality (Ed Pearlman and Beth Murray). The flier and cribs have been sent to the calendar address to be added to the website calendar.

- Salem, MA (Sharon) – MaryEllen Scannell reports that she has booked the venue for the Pinewoods Benefit Ball.
- Great Barrington, MA (Winifred) – The group has started doing a Zoom class on Wednesday afternoons and using ideas from the RSCDS.

4. Old Business –

- a. AGM Plans – The AGM will be held on Monday June 1, 2020.

5. New Business -

6. Next Meeting –

- a. Wednesday June 24 via Zoom