

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

June 30, 2021

Present: Jeremy Thorpe, Cathy Crabtree, Winifred McGowan, Lance Ramshaw

Joining via Zoom: Marsha Byrnes, Bill Card, Karen Gansz, David Grubb, Susan Haines, Ted Randolph, Alena Taylor,

Absent: Linda McJannet

1. **Welcome New Members** - Welcome to new members, David Grubb and Ted Randolph, and thank you to Winifred McGowan and Karen Gansz for your contributions to the committee over the past three years. Jeremy then took a few minutes to explain to David and Ted the work that is done by Exec.
2. **Minutes from the May 26, 2021 meeting** – The minutes were approved with the addition of the name of the class being provided by Headquarters as was noted in the Teaching and Music Committee report. The class is called “Basic Teaching Skills” and is a non-examined 12-hour course which provides an introduction to the various skills involved in teaching Scottish Country Dancing.
3. **Treasurer’s Report (Cathy)** – Cathy reports that the current cash on hand stands at \$114,743 because not all the expenses for Pinewoods have been incurred. The first deposit to Pinewoods for Scottish Sessions and ESCape has been made. The second payment is due on the first day of camp, and the balance is paid on the last day of camp. Some of the insurance invoices have been paid, but one policy had excluded Pinewoods. A policy for special events was created, and Cathy will make sure the certificate has been sent. The policy used to be based on location and now it is for the number of people dancing.
4. **Old Business** –
 - a) COVID Vaccinations – At last month’s meeting, there was discussion concerning requiring vaccination for dancing. It was decided that we could require vaccinations.
5. **New Business** –
 - a) Cultural Sensitivity issue - Just as the Pinewoods Gazette was ready to go to the printer, it was brought to the attention of TMC that the word “gypsy” was in the title of a dance, a word that is considered a slur by many people of Romany decent. There has been quite a lot of conversations in the dance world concerning this word. The dance devisor did not want to change the title, but TMC will add a footnote for the dance at Pinewoods. There are probably many other terms that are offensive to one people or peoples, but the terms may not be seen very often. It seems that it would be a role of Exec, not TMC, to issue an apology.
6. **Reports from Liaisons** –
 - a) ESCape (Bill) – Bill had not heard from April or Dan, but Cathy has received a bunch of checks, indicating that the campers are paying on time. A total of 96

campers have registered, close to break even.

Conduct in the Dining Hall at Pinewoods will be as usual but with fewer people. There may also be an option for outside seating. There are not really any other restrictions. People can do as they feel comfortable.

Do we want to have some rapid COVID tests available at camp for people who may exhibit symptoms? It would seem reasonable.

- b) Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (Jeremy) – There are 121 registered for Session I and 98 (or 99) for Session II. This puts us slightly in the black. The contracts were sent this week, and vaccination verification is going smoothly (uploaded to the application).
- c) Bookstore (Cathy) – The contents of the Bookstore are currently at Cathy's house and will be transferred to Laurie Somario at Pinewoods.
- d) Teaching and Music Committee (Marsha) – This month's meeting focused primarily on Pinewoods with discussions concerning gender designations. This is something that Headquarters has not approached, so no changes will be made at this time. Mention was made that there are a lot of first-timers signed up for Pinewoods.
TMC talked briefly about the Highland Ball and the list of bands that have played for the last several years. Elizabeth Anderson is checking the list. The Committee also started to discuss a Candidate Class but didn't get very far. Lastly, MaryEllen Scannell will be talking to TMC about the Pinewoods Benefit Ball at a later date.
- e) Nominating Committee (Marsha) – Jeremy sent out an e-mail to solicit volunteers and has received 2 responses.
- f) Fall 2021 Ceilidh (Cathy and Linda) – The venue has changed the date to November 20, but we don't yet have a contract. The event seems to be more of a Scots Charitable Society event, so we are wondering what our involvement should be. Is the format right for us? Do we need some fresh ideas?
- g) Loon Mountain Games (Karen) – The Games will be held from September 17th through the 19th. Tickets are on sale and are selling at \$200 for a carload of up to 5 people. No walk-ins will be allowed. It will be a smaller, more intimate event. Merrill Henderson reports that the contract is signed for the Branch to have its promotional booth at the Games. Patti Tillotson will do a session of Ceilidh dancing and one of SCD on the Friday afternoon, and they will have "Try It" sessions for SCD on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. As usual, Merrill will gratefully accept help in staffing the booth from anyone who is planning to attend the Games. Jeremy is re-formatting the postcards.
- h) Membership (Susan) – Peter Olszowka reports that he and Mary are preparing the forms for 2021-2022 membership.

7. Optional reports from Liaisons –

- a) Fall 2022 Concert (Cathy and Linda) - We are still considering inviting Alasdair Fraser to do a Concert for 2022.

- b) Highland Ball (Marsha) – Elizabeth Anderson is working on finding a band, and Marsha is checking for available dates at the hall.
- c) Boston Scottish Country Dancers (Marsha) – The group is planning to dance at the Dance for World Community event on September 25th.
- d) New Hampshire Highlands (Susan) – Due to the fact that New Hampshire Highlands is primarily an indoor event and there are still so many uncertainties concerning COVID, camp is canceled for this year.
- e) *Tartan Times* (Susan) – Barbara McOwen and Evelyn Murray will be getting the July/August edition ready for distribution.
- f) Website (Lance) – The webmasters report that they have been pleased with the clear communications from the Pinewoods committee. They are hoping to hear from the classes as soon as plans have been set for the fall.
- g) Equipment (Lance) – Thom Howe has offered a radio mic for use at Pinewoods.
- h) Class Liaisons –
 - Cambridge, MA (Lance) – The class plans to be outdoors for the summer and return to the hall in the fall.
 - Salem, MA (Alena) – The class is planning to start in the fall, but the buildings are still currently closed.
 - Great Barrington, MA (Ted) – The class is continuing to be held via Zoom, and they are still wondering what will happen in the fall. Three in-person sessions have been scheduled, and the day will be changing from Wednesday to Thursday.
 - Kennebunk, ME (Karen) – Merrill Henderson reports that the class is dancing in person outside, fully vaccinated only, and they plan to do at least occasional dancing through the summer. Their regular hall is not yet available for indoor dancing, so they have not crossed that bridge yet. There are generally only 6-8 dancers for these sessions. Merrill would also like to request a band subsidy for their virtual dance that was held on June 19. (Exec approved the subsidy.) About 30 attended the dance, including a group who danced together outside at the home of one of the class members. The band (Elizabeth Anderson, Anne Hooper, and Terry Traub) was terrific and much appreciated, and Merrill had good feedback from some of those who attended.
 - Burlington, VT (Karen) – Connie Kent reports that there is not much news from Burlington. Their dance space just had the floor refinished, so they're excited to dance on it again, but there are no immediate plans for starting classes.
 - Fairlee, VT (Karen) - The Fairlee Class hopefully will resume indoor dancing in September. They will evaluate safety factors at the end of August as well as whether it is necessary to impose any restrictions on dancing (such as requiring vaccination or wearing a face mask).

Meanwhile, some members of the class have begun meeting out-of-doors to dance this summer when the weather permits.

The class is scheduled to move forward with their autumn social on Saturday, October 23. Terry Traub will lead the band. Gary Apfel hopes to publish a program with dance instructions by early August.

8. Next Meeting –

- a) August 25 at 7:15 PM via Zoom