

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

August 25, 2021

**Zoom meeting:** Marsha Byrnes, Bill Card, Cathy Crabtree, David Grubb, Susan Haines, Lance Ramshaw, Ted Randolph, Alena Taylor, Jeremy Thorpe

**Absent:** Linda McJannet

**Guest:** Kat Dutton

1. **Minutes from the June 30, 2021 meeting** – The minutes were approved as submitted.
2. **COVID Update (Jeremy)** – With the rising number of COVID cases being reported in New England, an area of increasing transmission, Pinewoods cancelled its last session in accordance to CDS guidelines.  
As for area classes, the Cambridge class will dance in-person for dancers who are fully vaccinated and have proof of vaccination. They ask that dancers do not attend if they have any COVID symptoms. Masks must be worn when indoors.  
Exec has provided much guidance over the past 18 months and will probably not be offering any more unless there are any dramatic changes.
3. **Treasurer's Report (Cathy)** – Cathy reports that the current cash on hand stands at \$79,960, but this number will go down when the final bills for Pinewoods have been paid. Memberships for the 2021-2022 year are starting to come in but will not be accounted for until after October 1.  
The Pinewoods chairs did a great job of cost conscious decisions without asking for contributions from anyone. Scottish Sessions finished with an excess of about \$7500. There was much discussion concerning what could be done with this money. Do we want to give a bonus to the teachers and musicians? If we did, how would they take it? They may want to pay it forward to someone in greater need. Many musicians may not have a “day job” and could therefore use the extra money. No resolution was reached. Cathy will speak with Laurie to ask if everyone is doing alright.  
The insurance policy for special events to include Pinewoods was obtained at the last minute (Thank you, Cathy!) and created a cost increase. Cathy will probably shop around for a different insurance company for next year.  
ESCAPE had a shortfall, but CDS will help to cover the loss (just over \$2200.00).
4. **Scheduled reports from liaisons** –
  - a) **Membership (Cathy)** – To date, 21 people have paid their 2021-2022 membership dues. The co-chairs would like to do a membership drive, but whose responsibility is it to do? It is difficult to send a representative to the classes until it is known how many are meeting in-person versus meeting via Zoom. Cathy will ask Peter if he is planning to send out an e-mail.
  - b) **Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (Jeremy and Kat)** – First of all, they are please to say that there were no cases of COVID at camp. There was an issue with an underage person drinking alcohol, and it has been made known that they will

not be welcome back without their parents. What do we want to do about a problem such as this in the future? Overall, it does not affect a large number of people in our community. We may need to send out a letter next year.

Congratulations to this year's co-chairs for doing such a great job! The evaluations were very positive, and TMC is looking at them.

Jeremy will ask Headquarters if they plan to send any guidance concerning gender language.

- c) ESCape (Bill) – Daniel Potter reports that ESCape 2021 was a great success. There were 86 campers, and no one got sick. The best part was seeing old friends. Although they are hesitant to speak too soon, Daniel along with April Birnie may be willing to co-chair again next year.

- d) Teaching and Music Committee (Marsha) – TMC has been discussing Pinewoods 2022, music director Tom Pixton and possible teachers. For the Highland Ball, Kat Dutton will be devising the program with Charles Liu and Jen Schoonover offering advice. Elizabeth Anderson is looking at bands and needs to know the budget for the band. Debbie Jarvis is continuing on as chair of the TMC. Elizabeth Anderson will be updating the musician list.

Susie Petrov is planning a workshop to be held on Sunday October 24, 2021, from 3 – 4 PM via Zoom. The subject of the workshop is “Facilitating Classically-Trained Musicians in the Music of Scottish Country Dancing,” and Susie will explore the strengths that classically-trained musicians bring to Scottish Country Dancing.

Karen Sollins and the TMC think that another great workshop should focus on how to conduct a dance class via Zoom.

- e) Nominating Committee (Marsha) – Another member is still needed.
- f) Loon Mountain Games (September 17 – 19, 2021) (Alena) – The Games will be held from September 17<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup>. 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.
- g) Fall 2021 Ceilidh (November 20, 2021) (Linda) – The Branch is not really a part of this year's Ceilidh. We would help to promote it, if asked, and the Boston Scottish Country Dancers would perform if asked.

#### **5. Optional reports from liaisons –**

- a) Fall 2022 Concert (Linda) – Linda and Cathy are moving ahead with plans for a possible Alasdair Fraser/Natalie Haas Concert in 2022 and have been trying to contact Alasdair's agent. They are also checking with the Museum in Lexington to see if they are still renting their hall and would they take us back.
- b) Highland Ball (May 14, 2022) (Marsha) – See TMC report for information.
- c) Boston Scottish Country Dancers (Marsha) – The team is rehearsing for the Dance for World Community.

- d) New Hampshire Highlands (Susan) – New Hampshire Highlands was canceled for this year.
- e) *Tartan Times* (Susan) – The next edition will be sent out soon. It would also be nice to add an editor who would be able to do outreach.
- f) Bookstore (Susan) – Laurie Somario reports that she is anxious to get the Bookstore organized and will be working on an inventory list. Buyers will also be able to pay with credit cards very soon.
- g) Website (Lance) – The classes should be reminded to work with the webmasters for updates on how their classes are being conducted, live versus Zoom. Marsha will update the Highland Ball information, and Cathy will update the Ceilidh/Concert information.
- h) Equipment (Lance) – Thom Howe is looking forward to events where the sound system is needed.
- i) Class liaisons –
  - Cambridge, MA (Lance) – The class held one outdoor event in August, but they are willing to hold indoor classes. The dancers will need to be fully vaccinated, and the classes will be slightly shorter.
  - Chelmsford, MA (Alena) – The class plans to meet in October to discuss their future.
  - Salem, MA (Alena) – The class is in discussion but has not set any start date.
  - Stow, MA (Alena) – The class may resume in October.
  - Great Barrington, MA (Ted) – The class plans to meet in-person in the Fall and will be a rental group in the studio.
  - Northampton, MA (Ted) – The class plans to start on the first Thursday after Labor Day but will poll the group to discuss what they feel comfortable doing.
  - Albany, NY (Ted) – The Albany class continues to thrive as a hybrid group – in-person dancing in Lois’ home with masks and required vaccinations plus Zoom coverage. They are planning their annual Fall frolic for October 30 and 31 as a hybrid event with masks and costumes. Elke Baker and Liz Donaldson will be playing. A group in Chicago may also meet in-person at the same time and join in.
  - Greenland, NH (Bill) – The class is planning to start in the Fall with vaccinations required.
  - Nashua, NH (Bill) – The class does not yet have plans to resume and have not made a decision concerning their New Year’s Day dance.
  - Kennebunk, ME (Bill) – The class has been dancing outdoors since May. They are still uncertain about the availability of their hall in the Fall. They are quite grateful for the music subsidy they were given.
  - Blue Hill, ME (David) – The class is moving to Bucksport, possibly on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

- Belfast, ME (David) – The class has been holding monthly in-person mini dances.
- Fairlee, VT (David) – The class has been thinking about their Autumn Social scheduled for October 23<sup>rd</sup>. They are uncertain if it will occur.
- Brunswick, ME (David) – The class resumes on the Thursday after Labor Day, but they are unsure about their Fall Dance scheduled for October 16<sup>th</sup>.

**6. Old Business –**

**7. New Business –**

- a) October Zoom music workshop – See information in TMC report.

**8. Next Meeting –**

- a) September 22 at 7:15 PM via Zoom