

RSCDS Boston Branch
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 28, 2024, 7:15 pm

Location: Zoom
for Zoom access use link in email OR call: 617 417 1621

Attendance: Alena Taylor, Cathy Crabtree, Linda McJannet, Ted Randolph, David Grubb, Connie Kent, Kat Dutton, Emily Russell

- I. Minutes from the previous meeting (**Alena**)
 - A. Corrected minutes approved. Going forward, please CC Linda on the email sending approved minutes to Meyer for the website.

- II. Treasurer's report (**Cathy**)
 - A. Pinewoods 2024 is open for applications; deposits are starting to come in a little earlier than last year.
 - B. Since January 6 additional people have become members. 230 total members. May have a few more join over the next few months along with Pinewoods deposits.
 - C. Gender Neutral workshop will be around \$260 (a couple of people were not able to pay via Square). Susie was paid \$100. Refreshments courtesy of Marc and Kiera.
 - D. Tax prep costs have gone up a bit but should go down in the future as we should be able to file online without software.
 - E. \$40k Cash was invested in a bank CD directly after last month's meeting.

III. Reports from class liaisons

Great Barrington, MA: (**Ted**) About the same, no changes

Northampton, MA: (**Ted**) All is well. 2 teachers have taught all New Haven Ball dances.

Albany, NY: (**Ted**) Putting together a workshop (March 24) to assist candidates in Part I and Part II of Teaching Certificate. There is a Celtic festival (March 30), Scottish dances will be demonstrated!

Greenland, NH: (**Anne**) Not present to give report.

Nashua, NH: (**Anne**) Not present to give report.

Kennebunk, ME: (**Anne**) Not present to give report.

Belfast, ME: (**Anne**) Not present to give report.

Brunswick, ME: (**Anne**) Not present to give report.

Bucksport, ME: (**Anne**) Not present to give report.

Lancaster, NH: (**David**) No news

Fairlee, VT: (**David**) Looking forward to the Spring Frolic (May 18)

Cambridge, MA: (**Kat**) Strong Essentials class at the moment. There are two occasions now when we've had 12 people in the Essentials class in recent weeks! The Canadian American Club is hosting a dance ceildh on Sunday 10th March from 2 to 6pm, with dancing led by Jen Schoonover. We hope Scottish dancers will support the event. Dancers and non-dancers of all ages are welcome (i.e. please spread the word and encourage dancers to bring their children). I will send an email announcement to the Cambridge Class and Members lists.

Bedford, MA: (**Emily**) continues to dance regularly.

Salem, MA: (**Connie**) 2/15 class was well attended. Hoping for more tomorrow. Meetup for 6-week course is up, flyers will go out.

Stow, MA: (**Connie**) 2 4-couple sets two weeks ago, and 2 5-couple sets last week, with one new dancer.

Chelmsford, MA: (**Connie**) continues to meet regularly. Awarded a cultural grant from the city for music in their class.

IV. Scheduled business

A. Fall Concert/Ceilidh budget proposal (**Cathy**)

1. Redefined full house at 275. The NH Scots grant has the expectation that any surplus will be used for a future event. Report has been sent to them. We can also raise ticket prices a bit this year. Emily requested to specify the age of “child/student” and toddlers under 4 are free – this will not be policed. This will be clarified before tickets go on sale. Scottish Fish will be the guest musicians. We may look into sending fewer postcards in the mail but may create a slightly larger size for other events and classes. Any publicity suggestions are welcomed.

V. Reports from Committee Liaisons

A. Teaching & Music Committee (**Kat**)

1. Gender survey is rolling along. Ball is rolling as well. NEFFA – we will host 3 events.
2. Pinewoods – applications open, 55 applied to each section so far. Clarifying message will go out to members reminding them that this is not a family camp, but more accessible for dancers of all ages. Working with PCI on rates for children under 13. Will request a slightly higher budget for 2025 as the 100th anniversary of Pinewoods.
3. Gender Neutral Terminology. Approx 12 in person and 17 on Zoom. Good discussions, broken into smaller groups, interesting and successful. Idea of putting together a resource of teaching dances without gender terminology was brought up. Re-writing the script for the dances. Some dances have no gender terms at all, this list was provided. Congrats and thanks to Susie Petrov for leading this event.

- B. Boston Scottish Country Dancers (**Linda**) started practicing for NEFFA. Open rehearsal invitation has been sent via email. Need to find more dancers for Demo Team.
- C. Highland Ball (**Cathy**) paper application is available. We have sold 4 ball tickets. Online application should be available within the next week or two.
- D. Nominating Committee (**Linda**)
 - 1. Remind Nominating committee that we need nominees for Exec (David and Ted leaving) for president and secretary (incumbents may run) – David Wasson?
 - 2. Consider candidates for Nominating Committee (Merrill leaving) – Suzie Long?
 - 3. Consider candidates to appoint to the Teaching and Music Committee; including those recommended by the current TMC members (Two people are leaving).
- E. Fall 2024 Concert/Ceilidh (**Cathy**)
- F. ESCape (**Connie**)
 - 1. Applications are now available to the general public. So far 89 dancers have applied. Age is still 13 and up. Looking forward to having an additional teacher so Jen can teach a general conditioning class.
- G. Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (**Kat**) see TMC notes
- H. Membership (**Anne**) Not present to give report.
- I. Website (**David**) and Calendar (**Marsha**) Cathy has one more small correction to forward to David for the website.
- J. Equipment (**Connie**) Things are starting to pick up.
- K. Publicity and Social Media Committee (**Alena**)
 - 1. Karen Sollins will work with Alena to teach at the Cambridge Center for Adult Education (CCAЕ) for fall term.
 - 2. We missed our meeting, but Salem 6-week class is now on Meet Up, and Susie Petrov made flyers to be distributed. Next meeting TBD but focus on Social Media.
 - 3. Could this committee create generic content or template for classes social media and marketing? Susie?
- L. Loon Mountain Games (3rd weekend Sept) (**Marsha**) Not present to provide report.
- M. Bookstore (**Emily**) Nothing to report
- N. Tartan Times (**Linda**)
 - 1. Pulling pieces together, but things are moving along.

VI. Continuing business: None

VII. New business: None

Adjournment – approved 8:53pm

Next Meeting: March 27, 2024, at 7:15 PM

