

RSCDS Boston Branch 2024-25

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes for November Wednesday, December 4, 2024, 7:15 pm

Location: Zoom
for Zoom access use link in email OR call: 1-617-417-1621

Attendance: Anne Johnson, Alena Taylor, Robert McOwen, Dave Ward, Linda McJannet, Cathy Crabtree, Marsha Byrnes, Connie Kent, Emily Russell, Kat Dutton

General Business

- A. Minutes from the previous meeting (**Alena/Kat**)
 - a. Approved
- B. Treasurer's report (**Cathy**)
 - a. Summary: \$13,500 increase in net assets for the period ending 12/4/24. The bank CD will mature in February 2025, which will show us an extra \$2,000. It will then be rolled over to a new year of investment.
- C. Reports from Class liaisons
 - Great Barrington, MA: *Emily* (**Ted Randolph**) Nothing new. Still have to cancel frequently.
 - Northampton, MA: *Emily* (**Ilene Goldstein**) No report.
 - Albany, NY: *Emily* (**Barb Bemis** and **Lois New**) No report.
 - Bedford, MA: *Emily* (**Heather Day**) Information party on 12:30 to 2:30pm Dec 14th – to be added to calendar, no flyer.

Cambridge, MA: *Robert* (**Alex**) Nothing formal received. December 16th will be the holiday class party with raffle.

Greenland, NH: *Dave* Met yesterday, getting used to dancing with ghosts. Intend to meet next week, and then no more in December for the holidays.

Nashua, NH: *Dave* (**Loren**) No report received. Meeting tonight, and fairly regularly.

Lancaster, NH: *Dave* (**Bill Tobin**) No report received.

Kennebunk, ME: *Anne* (**Merrill Henderson**) Dancing. One more class for December. Usually about 6 people in attendance.

Belfast, ME: *Anne* (**Dawn Little**) avg 6-8 couples. New dancers, continuing dancers. Dec 18th holiday party.

Bucksport, ME: *Anne* (**Dawn Little**) avg 6-8 couples. Thanksgiving party with 9 couples last week.

Brunswick, ME: *Anne* (**Patti Tillotson**) Meeting regularly, avg. 3-4 couples. New dancer recently joined.

Anne will start a new community ed Scarborough, ME class will start in January.

Fairlee, VT: *Connie*

Salem, MA: *Connie* (**MaryEllen Scannell**) Class on Thursday evening. Pinewoods benefit ball was a success.

Stow, MA: *Connie* (**Vickery**) avg 7 couples. Live music much appreciated.

Chelmsford, MA: *Connie* (**Rebecca**) No report received.

Somerville, MA: *Kat (Kat)* avg 4-7 couples. Gender-free. New-to-Scottish dancers as well. 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month! Website for this class exists but needs polish. Should be, but not yet on the branch website. GenderFreeSCD.com

Scheduled Business

- D. Fall Concert/Ceilidh Update (**Cathy**)
 - a. See financial summary, but we did end with a surplus of \$2,287 also saved money on expenses.
 - b. Had set full-house at 275 tickets in advance. Ended up selling a total of 321 tickets. Cathy will investigate the logistics of who was in attendance and how we marketed them.
 - c. Huge thank you to Cathy & Robert & John for their extensive volunteering.
- E. ESC Budget Proposal (**Connie**)
 - a. PCI has raised their rates, so ESCape raised the camper fees by the same amount.
 - b. Budgeted for a few less people than a full camp, but hoping to sell out again.
 - c. Program staff roughly the same as previous years. Last year we had a large amount of donations that cannot be counted on for this year.
 - d. Otherwise, budget is approximately the same as last year. Travel budget is always budgeted higher than used. Button materials were overordered last year, so \$0 line item for this year.
 - e. Bottom line is very small surplus, which worked last year.
 - f. Budget approved.
- F. Review equipment needs—and status of things left at the former Brookline Class’s venue – to be continued with as little fanfare as possible.
- G. Publicity help/re-think—Visitor (**Susie Petrov**); Alenas’ contact?
 - a. Learned from the concert – strong local musicians with a local following are important. Pinetreeflyers.com is an opportunity for future years and can play for dancing as well.
 - b. Invitations are important – to Scottish PW and to the Highland Ball. Martha Kent helped invite people to Summer’s End. Canva is a free resource to create invites and flyers for marketing materials. Groups to come to camp – people who are new to dancing, and people who have jobs where vacation time must be planned in advance. Classes have mailing lists of newer dancers. Susie started an RSCDS Teachers Contact List across the US and Canada, and a list of RSCDS Facebook Groups – they will post and distribute flyers to their dancers and groups.
 - c. Quarter-page ad to Scottish Country Dancers magazine? Dance Scottish note due this Saturday. Susie will post.
 - d. PW post cards have been created and distributed to class leaders. - Maybe “Folk Post” could help. If we can get a big pile of them to Hogmanay in Philadelphia, they can be dispersed to a lot of people/places/other events from there.
 - e. Susie & Martha Kent will do marketing for Highland Ball and Scottish PW this year. Other marketing initiatives are up to others. Dawn has professional Canva.
 - f. Maybe FB groups can be leveraged for new class dancers? Maybe TikTok? Posting in “The Patch” for each town where there is a class.

Scheduled Reports from Liaisons

- H. Teaching & Music Committee (**Kat**)
 - a. Ball program is nearly finished and will be distributed by January.
 - b. PW contracts are pending
- I. Boston Scottish Country Dancers (**Marsha**)

- a. Had a great time dancing at the concert, and will do Burns night event again.
- J. Highland Ball (**Marsha**)—Remind Dawn that her budget is due for our “December” meeting (Jan. 8 th)
- K. Nominating Committee (**Marsha**)
 - a. Two people of interest for exec, and another optional.
- L. Fall Concert (**Cathy**)
 - a. See the financial summary for details.
- M. ESCape (**Connie**)
 - a. See budget summary for details.
- N. Scottish Sessions Pinewoods 2025 (**Kat/Marc**) –Remind Marc and Keira that their budget and application are due at our January 29th mtg.
- O. Membership (**Anne**)
 - a. Auto renew? Reminder emails only sent to those not yet renewed. - We are not set up to do that at this time. We also do not want to hold CC info on file.
 - b. Currently 197 members of the branch. HQ says we have 80 individuals who are up for renewal. Working with Peter & Jeremy how to get information out of the database to send targeted email to renew.
 - c. Directory didn’t go out to members until January last year, hoping it will be the same this year.
- P. Website and Calendar (**Robert**)
 - a. Slide show for the concert will now appear on the landing page of the website.
- Q. Equipment (**Connie**)
 - a. No major updates. Thom has a question – interested in using the equipment for a private event next November – what fees and policies are, looks like \$75 for a day. Please gift him the use of the sound system.
- R. Publicity and Social Media (**Alena**)
 - a. See Susie’s notes regarding Highland Ball and Scottish PW. Class promotion/marketing continues to be a question.
 - b. Linda will put out a call to the membership to request leadership and/or advice.
- S. Loon Mountain Games 2025 (**Marsha**)
 - a. No news, but it will be the 50th year of NH Highland Games.
- T. Bookstore (**Emily**)
 - a. No report provided.
- U. Tartan Times (**Linda**)
 - a. Published just before Pinewoods Ball.
- V. Miscellaneous

Continuing business

- W. Update on sensitive issue from PW Scottish sessions (**Linda/Marc**)
 - a. Marc was able to touch base with 1 of 2 parties and will be able to move forward within the next couple of days.
 - b. Multi-year complaint from one camper about another camper has been received with stalking behavior. How do we proceed? Not confident that discussions will result in changed behavior. Perhaps have a conversation with the parents about whether the camper may be able to change the stalking behavior. They may have suggestions and talk about whether he will be invited to PW going forward. Marc and Linda will make the call.

New business - None.

Mtg adjourned 9:19pm

Next Meeting January 8, 2025, 7:15 PM

Optional reports: Archives (Emily); Calendar (Marsha)