

RSCDS Boston Branch 2024-25
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes for February
Wednesday, February 26, 2025, 7:15 pm

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

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

Missing: Emily, Marsha

Agenda

1. Minutes from the previous meeting (**Alena**)
 - a. Approved.
2. Treasurer's report (**Cathy**)
 - a. Compared to last year this time, Pinewoods Scottish and ESCape applications have been coming in earlier than last year. Interest from CD was received in February. The CD has rolled over for a new 6 months at 4.01% interest rate.
3. Reports from Class Liaisons
 - a. Great Barrington, MA: Emily (**Ted Randolph**) No report received.
 - b. Northampton, MA: Emily (**Ilene Goldstein**) We are already hearing from folks in our more western Branch classes who want to come this June for the anniversary dance. My first priority will be a Save the date announcement. I have one venue "penciled" but am inquiring about renting a cool space that is larger.

Another positive note is that in only 2 weeks, we have gained 1 new dancer and one who expressed interest, from a local Contra dance listserv that also includes other traditional dance cultures. Yay!

We did have a snow/sleet cancelation 2 weeks ago, but then we had a very good turnout this past week.

New dances are coming in from class members to publish an Anniversary dance booklet. So much exciting news and happenings this month.
 - c. Albany, NY: Emily (**Barb Bemis** and **Lois New**) Our goal was to expand Scottish participation, to get Scottish dancers new to the Flurry (or returning after being absent for many years) AND to attract new dancers to any and all Scottish classes that we are aware of. In other words, inspire and connect. So, the organizers let me greatly expand the Flurry offerings. We had Terpsichore. And we made flyers, and signup lists for all the Branch classes, other Branches, other Scottish classes from Virginia to Canada, Boston to Buffalo. In other words, every group we could think of. Then, during the Flurry we played "match up" with interested people.

The weather was predicted to turn really bad Sat afternoon, which it did. And on Sunday morning the roads and weather were still hideous. So, overall

attendance was lighter on Sat than usual and Sunday morning got off to a light start.

Sat morning Scottish intro class 101 filled the room (I have to look at my notes...seems like 80+ and usually we have well over 120) The class flowed into a dance party so dancing 9:45 to noon.

The Sat afternoon class on canons and fugues was very well attended (around 50?) and included experienced Scottish and a number of accomplished dancers from other genres. This seemed to be a great success as I heard so many comments on how much people enjoyed it. I taught Fugal Fergus, Rob Roy (modified last 8 bars), Trip to Balfour Rd as a strathspey, Dundee City Police Jig.

Then off to a concert at Parting Glass pub, played by Terpsichore. Grateful for Keith Bemis shuttle as we only had 15 minutes to get back for the Scottish ball from 6:30 to 8:30.

Sunday morning featured John Drewry dances followed by a dance party... some real new to Scottish dancers, again really loved it. Another 9:45 to noon window.

Two great music workshops.... Fiddle Styles and later, playing Strathspeys. Great weekend. So many people said they hadn't been to Flurry before, or had stopped coming but came due to expanded repertoire. And then the dancers from other genres who came and tried and enjoyed. And there are those who don't live anywhere near a Scottish dance group who come every year to Scottish at Flurry as a highlight of the weekend.

Overall... a great success!!!!

- d. Bedford, MA: Emily (**Heather Day**) The only update is that I asked Peter and Mary Olszewka if they would look into the stuff at the Brookline church. Mary says she thinks she still has a key, which would be easier, and they have been there more recently than I. I suggested they contact the TMC for suggestions about what to do with the contents. As far as the class goes, it remains much the same but the folks who DO come seem to enjoy themselves, and our latest recruit is really starting to get the steps and rhythm, which is great to see.
- e. Cambridge, MA: Robert (**Alex Bowers**)
- f. Somerville, MA: Kat (**Kat Dutton**) Doing well. Had first guest teacher this past week. Keira had 9 dancers, had a great time. A few new dancers who have come back several times. There will be a June party with live music.
- g. Greenland, NH: Dave (**Dave Ward**) Holding on through Feb. Yesterday had 2 couples.
- h. Nashua, NH: Dave (**Loren**) No report received, but looks like at least 3 couples per class.
- i. Lancaster, NH: Dave (**Bill Tobin**) No report received.

- j. Kennebunk/Brunswick, ME: Anne (**Anne Johnson**) Avg 3 to 6 couples on any given week. There has been a new dancer and other interest. Some cancellations due to weather.
- k. Belfast/Bucksport, ME: Anne (**Dawn Little**) Still going strong.
- l. Scarborough, ME class: 5 couple sets, able to hold each class. Folks had fun, and some interest in joining a regular class.

- m. Fairlee, VT: Connie (**Gary Apfel**) No report received.
- n. Salem, MA: Connie (**MaryEllen Scannell**) No report received.
- o. Stow, MA: Connie (**Vickery**) Hard time finding musicians for her class. Avg 5-8 couples.
- p. Chelmsford, MA: Connie (**Rebecca**) Canadian attendees, continue new dancer class, but have enough experienced dancers to keep everything going.

Scheduled business:

- 4. Fall Concert/Ceilidh budget (**Cathy**)

Scheduled reports from liaisons:

- 5. Teaching & Music Committee (**Kat**): Replacements for Debbie Jarvis and Marc Hartstein for terms running 2025-28
 - a. Discussed replacements at TMC, but no official nominations.
 - b. Publicity for ball and Pinewoods. Programs are ready but not published. Brainstorming to bring in new dancers.
 - c. Hanneke Cassell has been requested for 2026.
 - d. Linda Henderson has confirmed as teacher for 2026.

- 6. Boston Scottish Country Dancers (**Marsha/Linda**)
 - a. Starting to set up rehearsals for NEFFA.
 - b. There are 6 new clips of demo team on the website.

- 7. Highland Ball (**Marsha**)
 - a. Concerned about no news from Dawn. We would have thought by now there would be ticket forms and save-the-dates. Several people have reached out and may step in to assist. Timing is still ok, as the ball is in May.

- 8. Nominating Committee (**Marsha**)
 - a. Karen Sollins has volunteered to run for VP. There is another person willing to run on exec. We do need one more person to run.

- 9. Fall Concert (**Cathy**)
 - a. Budget: Full house = 285 seats. Ticket price remains the same. Katie and Keith are featured musicians, contracts complete, though one signature missing. Demo team coach will receive \$150, new this year. Hoping to send a few more post cards and budgeted for promotion and postage. Armory raised their rent a little. With a full house we would end at a surplus. We will share 25% of the surplus with Katie and Keith.

- b. Approved.

10. ESCape (**Connie**)

- a. Planning is going well. Registration may be at capacity at the moment (143 at the moment). Still encouraging new people.
- b. Sensitive issue: CDS Boston has a list of people who are banned from camp, they are asking for our list. This is the first year there is one banned person who registered for camp (and perhaps Scottish). Further communications in progress, no decisions have been made.

11. Scottish Sessions Pinewoods 2025 (**Kat**)

- a. Current registration (compared to 1mo after reg opened last year:)
S1 Only: 37 (+16)
S2 Only: 21 (-2)
Both Sessions: 75 (+23)
- b. Special shoutout to Bucksport and Belfast are bringing a large contingent.
- c. Demographic – currently have 16 people who are 35 or younger.

12. Membership (**Anne**)

- a. Gained 4 more members since last meeting. Total 224 currently.
- b. Running into a few registration quirks, working through them.
- c. Family registration isn't quite functioning yet.

13. Website and Calendar (**Robert**)

- a. In contact with Meyer about a few updates for the website.
- b. Some of the classes need updating. Liaisons, please have class leaders go to website and let Meyer know if any updates are needed.

14. Equipment (**Connie**)

- a. Nothing to report. Thom says all is well.

15. Publicity and Social Media (**Alena**)

- a. Facebook: Class Page or Event? Possibly use the page to create an event.
- b. Please ask around to ask friends and family how they find things to do – general poll. Tik Tok? Dischord? FB? Insta? Business card or QR code? Community news/local listing? Venu websites?
- c. Post card – add Somerville class and order more. Cathy to reach out to Jeremy to update and print more. Along with creating a business-card size.

16. Loon Mountain Games 2025 (**Marsha**)

- a. No news

17. Bookstore (**Emily**) No report received.

18. *Tartan Times* (**Linda**)

- a. Most material is ready for the next issue.

Optional reports:

19. Archives (Emily)

Continuing business:

20. Mechanism for checking in with long-term Chairs and volunteers; preparing candidates for when it's time to pass the torch?
 - a. Cathy will draft a proposal to bring to the next meeting.

New business: None.

Adjourned 9pm

Next Meeting: **March 26, 2025, 7:15 PM**

Liaisons for 2025-2026

Officers

President: Linda

VP: Marsha

Treasurer: Cathy

Secretary: Alena

Concert: Cathy

Class Liaisons

Event and Other Liaisons

ESCape: Connie

Equipment: Connie

Great Barrington, MA: Emily

Northampton, MA: Emily

Albany, NY: Emily

Bedford, MA: Emily

Boston Scottish Country Dancers: Marsha

Nominating Committee: Marsha

Highland Ball: Marsha

NH Highland Games: Marsha

Cambridge, MA: Robert

Somerville, MA: Kat

TMC: Kat

Scottish Sessions Pinewoods: Kat

Greenland, NH: Dave

Nashua, NH: Dave

Lancaster, NH: Dave

Membership: Anne

Kennebunk, ME: Anne

Belfast, ME: Anne

Brunswick, ME: Anne

Bucksport, ME: Anne

Summer's End: Anne

Tartan Times: Linda

Bookstore: Emily

Fairlee, VT: Connie

Salem, MA: Connie

Stow, MA: Connie

Chelmsford, MA: Connie

Website and Calendar: Robert

Publicity: Alena