

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 27, 2025, 7:00 pm

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

Attendance: Alena Taylor, Linda McJanett, Dave Ward, Robert McOwen, Hana Lang, Jim Savitt, Kat Dutton, Cathy Crabtree, Karen Sollins, Anne Johnson

Agenda

1. Minutes from the May AND June meeting (**Alena**)
 - a. Approve corrected minutes from May 28, 2025
 - i. Change to “it will be brought up at the next teacher’s meeting.
Otherwise approved.
 - b. Approve minutes from June:
 - i. Alena to double check for edits. Otherwise approved.
2. Treasurer’s report (**Cathy**)
 - a. Scottish Pinewoods is still preliminary number, a few updates and payments required. Stay tuned.
 - b. Administrative expenses, tax return was filed by August 15th. Paid.
 - c. Marketing includes stipends to musicians for dancing in Copley Sq.
 - d. Ins did go down from previous year.
 - e. Bank CD was rolled over on August 1st. Rolled principal and interest for another 6 month CD.
 - f. Pinewoods ESCape just needs to be approved by the committee before the numbers are final. Surplus this year, we will share that with SCDS.

Reports from Class Liaisons

3. Jim Savitt:
 - Great Barrington, MA: **Ted Randolph** Party at Maria’s house, lunch and 3 couple set.
 - Northampton, MA: **Ilene Goldstein** Will begin classes again on Sept. 4th, hoping the new people will show.
 - Albany, NY: **Lois New & Barb Bemis** Prep for Fall Frolic is in place. Sunday class continued through the summer and mini party on 8/10 returning from TAC. Zoom remains popular (more than 20) and will continue. Returning to Capital District Scottish Games with demos and dances.
4. Kat Dutton:

Somerville : **Kat Dutton** Danced in August 12-13 dancers both times in August. Looking forward to having more new dancers.

5. Hana Lang

Chelmsford, MA: **Rebecca Gore** Met on July 4th (yes, we did get a couple of sets of people in town for July 4th) and August 1, 2025. We continue to have two plus sets with usually a few attendees new to Scottish Country Dancing which keeps the more experienced dancers on their toes to help the newcomers out.

On August 9, 2025 we had our annual class dance. Catherine Miller and friends played for the dance with Susie Long as the MC and program devisor. There were three plus sets of dancers, and a very good time was had by all. A tasty potluck dinner followed the dance.

We received our Chelmsford Cultural Council grant reimbursement, so the class is ready to start the next dancing year on Friday September 5, 2025. I am hoping to apply for another grant as the funding really helps to keep costs low and still have a musician to play for the class.

Bedford, MA: **Heather Day** Class has been going all summer, with dancers bringing children and grandchildren. Some CDs have been remastered to run 10 times through

Fairlee, VT: **Gary Apfel Dancing** through the summer, preparing for Autumn social on Oct. 4th.

6. Robert McOwen

Cambridge, MA: **Alex Bowers** Having classes with guest teachers since Pinewoods. No dancing Labor Day. Workshop on 9/27 is hosted. Celebration on Oct 27th – they suggest split the cost with the branch, \$250 plus refreshments. Approved.

7. Cathy Crabtree:

Stow, MA: **Vickery Trinkaus-Randall** Beginning again in September. Picnic on 9/14 at Vickery's house. 1st class will be on the 26th. Discussing possibility of a class party. Currently everything is handled by Vickery, and we think there should be guest teachers so she can dance sometimes.

8. Dave Ward:

Greenland, NH: **Merrill Henderson** - Planning on starting up on Sept 9th – may have to schedule around our venue's re-painting schedule.

Nashua, NH: **Loren Wright** Have been meeting with full set or more through August.

Lancaster, NH: **Bill Tobin** (affiliated but not sponsored) No news. Looking for a new dance venue.

9. Anne Johnson:

Kennebunk, ME: **Merrill Henderson** Starting Sept. 7th for the year.

Belfast, ME: Dawn Little Have been dancing through summer. Slightly lower numbers. Some classes were cancelled due to heat.

Brunswick, ME: **Anne Johnson** Starting Sept. 4th for the year. Requesting subsidy for Fall Dance Party on 10/18. Approved for \$365.

Bucksport, ME: **Dawn Little** Have been dancing through the summer. Very active group of dancers, who sent a contingency to Pinewoods and Summer's End.

Dancers from all the Maine classes participated in demos and try-it workshops at the Maine Highland Games, August 16-17. New venue for the games and it was expanded to 2 days. Patti Tillotson led the session on Saturday and Dawn Little led it on Sunday. 6-8 people from the "audience" participated in the try-its each day.

10. Karen Sollins:

Salem, MA: **MaryEllen Scannell** Starting Sept 4th, intro session. Susie and Dirk trade off as class musicians. 6 week intro with slight discount.

Scheduled business:

11. Proposed "Member Band" for the Ball –Guest: **Susie Petrov** (see email from Susie and Tom Pixton)
 - a. Melrose has increased their rent by 90%. We want to keep the hall with the rent increase. Approved. We should also start looking for a hall for 2027.
 - b. "Member Band" for Highland Ball 2026? Great for community building and celebrate musicians. Music budget is at least \$2,200 may be best spent inviting members to play, having them join the branch, work with Tom to make a couple of quartets. Proposal to pay a bit more to Susie and Tom for being band leaders and quality control, the rest being split between the musicians. Final decision – approved.

12. Conclude discussion of "incentives/rewards" for Chairs of major events (PW, Ball, and others?) —guest: **Susie Petrov**

- a. Formalize a thank you to the people who put these together. Options: 1. guaranteed place at camp but still pay full price for either of the next two years. Zero cost to branch. 2. Reduced or free ticket to the Highland Ball. 3. A special party to celebrate the people who run these events that year. Decision tabled.

Reports from liaisons:

13. Teaching & Music Committee (**Kat**)
 - a. Susie will be the contact for the Sept. 27th workshop, along with promoting it.
14. Boston Scottish Country Dancers (**Karen**)
 - a. Starting rehearsals soon. They would like to hold an open rehearsal.
15. Highland Ball (**Karen**) ideas for next year's chair(s)? Hannah McArdle? Dirk Teide and Emily Peterson? Ken Launie and Sara Schechner?
 - a. Marsha offered to participate in logistics and admin, but we still need a chair. Karen to speak with Ken and Sara.
16. Nominating Committee (**Karen**) Ken Launie is now chair.
17. Fall Concert (**Cathy**)
 - a. less than 3 months away. Post card design is complete. Working on getting them printed and sent to classes, etc about mid-Sept.
18. ESCape (**Kat**) Made over \$2k, they were full, it was excellent.
19. Pinewoods Scottish Sessions (**Kat**) Full report tabled until next meeting.
20. Membership (**Anne**)
 - a. Email list and website passwords were not updated last year. Suggestion: leave the email list as is. Anne to send Meyer a list of who does not need to receive the "please renew" if they have already renewed. Anne to have a phone call with Meyer.
 - b. Renewal reminder email will go out in the next few weeks. The next reminder to be sent out in early October. Membership needs to be in by Nov. 15th in order to be in the directory.
21. Website and Calendar (**Robert**) Tabled to next meeting.
22. Equipment (**Hana**) Tabled to next meeting.
23. Publicity and Social Media (**Alena**)
 - a. Everyone has sent the survey to class teachers. Other notes tabled to next meeting.
24. NH Highland Games 2025 (**Karen**) Merrill needs volunteers to be at the booth, do the try-it, etc.
25. Bookstore and Archives (**Hana**) Tabled to next meeting
26. *Tartan Times* (**Linda**) Tabled to next meeting.

New business:

22. North American Scottish Dance Festival, to be held April 4, 2026, in Philadelphia. Sponsored by the RSCDS Youth Branch. How should we support and encourage participation in the inaugural festival? See Karen's email of 8/16/25.
 - a. Create teams in the Boston area, rehearsal time/space? Class and sub-group based with strong coaches. T-shirts? Please think more about this, and to be

discussed at next meeting. Registration opens in September. Suggestion is to create a committee outside of Exec to get this started. Please think on this information and we will talk about it more next month.

Adjournment 9:18pm

Next Meeting: September 24, 2025, 7:00 PM

Executive Committee and Liaisons -- 2025-2026 *Rev. 8-26-25*

Officers

President: Linda McJannet

Vice-President: Karen Sollins

Treasurer: Cathy Crabtree

Secretary: Alena Taylor

Event and Committee Liaisons

ESCape: Kat

Equipment: Hana

Boston Scottish Country Dancers: Karen

Nominating Committee: Karen

Highland Ball: Karen

NH Highland Games: Karen

TMC: Kat

Scottish Sessions Pinewoods: Kat

Membership: Anne

Summer's End: Anne

Tartan Times: Linda

Bookstore and Archives: Hana

Website and Calendar: Robert

Publicity: Alena

Concert: Cathy

Hana Lang

Chelmsford, MA: Rebecca Gore

Bedford, MA: Heather Day

Fairlee, VT: Gary Apfel

Robert McOwen

Cambridge, MA: Alex Bowers

Cathy Crabtree:

Stow, MA: Vickery Trinkaus-Randall

Dave Ward

Greenland, NH: Merrill Henderson

Nashua, NH: Loren Wright

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Northampton, MA: Ilene Goldstein

Albany, NY: Lois New & Barb Bemis

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Kennebunk, ME: Merrill Henderson

Belfast, ME: Dawn Little

Brunswick, ME: Anne Johnson

Bucksport, ME: Dawn Little

Kat Dutton:

Somerville : Kat Dutton

Karen Sollins:

Salem, MA: MaryEllen Scannell