

**RSCDS Boston Branch**  
**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**  
Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2026 7:00 pm

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

**Attendance:** Linda McJannet, Alena Taylor, Hana Lang, Robert McOwen, Karen Sollins, David Ward, Kat Dutton, Cathy Crabtree, Anne Johnson

**Agenda**

- A. Minutes From Previous meeting (**Alena**)
  - 1. Changes made in real time. Approved.
  
- B. Treasurer's report (**Cathy**)
  - 1. Deposits and payments are coming in for Pinewoods and ESCape.
  - 2. Paid HQ subscription fees. Catch up will happen in May.
  - 3. Demo team income from Burns Night was increased from previous years.
  - 4. Marketing expense was paid to Catherine Miller regarding the class that was taught by Susie in January.
  - 5. Our CD at the bank – propose to roll over CD but also add cash to \$50k for the next 6-month CD. 3.55% for this round. Approved.

C. Reports from Class Liaisons

**Jim Savitt:**

Great Barrington, MA: (**Ted Randolph**)  
Northampton, MA: (**Ilene Goldstein**)  
Albany, NY: (**Lois New & Barb Bemis**)  
Guilderland, NY (**Bethany Wright**)

**Kat Dutton:**

Somerville: (**Kat Dutton**) Met once since last exec meeting. Anders was visiting from CA, 5 couples. Dancing again tomorrow.

**Hana Lang:**

Chelmsford, MA: (**Rebecca Gore**) No report received.  
Bedford, MA: (**Heather Day**) Cancelled yesterday due to weather. Chris, Heather's husband, passed away.  
Fairlee, VT: (**Gary Apfel**) Avg 1 set, class has been practicing from SCDEA and Highland Ball. Starting to work on Spring Fling.

**Robert McOwen:**

Cambridge, MA: (**Alex Bowers**) Burns Night was postponed due to weather.

**Cathy Crabtree:**

Stow, MA: (**Vickery Trinkaus-Randall**) Met twice in January.

**Dave Ward:**

Greenland, NH: **(Merrill Henderson)** Will meet again next Tuesday.

Nashua, NH: **(Loren Wright)** No report, but regularly has a full set.

Lancaster, NH: **(Bill Tobin)** No news

**Anne Johnson:**

Kennebunk, ME: **(Merrill Henderson)** off and on this month due to weather.

Belfast, ME: **(Dawn Little)** Weather cancelations for most classes.

Brunswick, ME: **(Anne Johnson)** Class has been meeting each week.

Bucksport, ME: **(Dawn Little)** Weather cancelations for most classes.

**Karen Sollins:**

Salem, MA: **(MaryEllen Scannell)** Once danced once since last meeting. They are meeting this week, with a full set.

D. Scheduled Business

1. Branch Service Award

- a. Linda is collecting the list. We can propose up to 3 per year. Branch can give 1 award per year. Linda will ask HQ if who makes the decision, and if we can catch up with more than one for a couple of years. We will submit 1 proposal this year, and work toward more for future years. Please keep thinking of people.

2. Implementing funding for live music (and other aspects?) of “out-reach classes” (like Bethany Wright’s in Albany and Susie’s in Woburn): How much support? Use liaisons and the revised teachers’ list to get the word out?

- a. Susie had a great turnout for her Woburn class (ran 3 weeks in Jan). Mixed age, mixed abilities, prepare to attend classes.
- b. Bethany’s Adult Ed class has 5 new people and 6 repeat dancers. 12 sessions.
- c. Could the music subsidy cover class musicians, or just class party musicians? It is important to support our classes. What does it cost to run each class, and what kind of support might be helpful? Maybe open the floor to class requests for hardship requests. Linda will draft an email to class leaders/teachers.
- d. Lois would like a stipend of \$300 for 2 musicians for 10 hours of playing over the weekend of the Flurry. Approved.

E. Reports from Liaisons

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

- a. Pinewoods, ESCape, and Highland Ball planning continued.

2. Boston Scottish Country Dancers **(Karen)**

- a. Not much to report. Burns night event was lots of fun. Accepted at NEFFA. Rehearsals to begin soon.

### 3. Highland Ball (**Karen**)

- a. Updated budget is at [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/10BAWt2uS-qWZFlfCds\\_xOt6ova27Xt7bor5euZr7iYc/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/10BAWt2uS-qWZFlfCds_xOt6ova27Xt7bor5euZr7iYc/edit?usp=sharing)  
Sharing should be set that anyone with the link can see it,
- b. Because previous version was bookkeeping the band so confusingly, I changed it up; minimal effect on the bottom line, but much clearer. Pay for the music is \$150 for the piper, \$2000 for the band, and 3 truly-comp tickets (Susie, Tom, piper). Logistically, we'll be taking musicians' registrations with \$0 payment due, and then subtracting that total off the \$2000, and Cathy writes Susie a check for the remainder, which Susie will distribute as she sees fit.
- c. Only other line updated is that I received an estimate from the caterer.
- d. Status with TMC is slightly behind but in ok shape; we should have music and MCs for all 3 events, and are still settling Saturday MCs, but that's not the difficult job, shorter lead time on that is ok.
- e. Saturday program and flyers are complete and were emailed out (as reported last meeting)
- f. Friday program is final and flyers are in draft form; should be sending that around soonish.
- g. The thing that's behind schedule is the registration forms. I need to get with Jeremy to set up jotform and also need to make the printable/ mailable version. Request to Exec: could someone please send me an example of last/previous year's registration form to speed the drafting process? Cathy will send it to Emily.
- h. Once all three documents are done (hoping this week) I'll have Meyer do the following:
  - \* update the website with links to pdfs (Friday flyer, Saturday flyer, registration, jotform at <https://www.rscdsboston.org/event-highland-ball.html>)
  - \* update the calendar events with flyers and registration info
  - \* send registration form and Friday flyer to the members email list
- i. (request - are there other web-related tasks I should be asking Meyer for?)

### 4. North American Scottish Country Dance Festival (**Karen**)

- a. Jen – registrations submitted. 2 practice weekends scheduled. Taking shape well as a branch-wide effort. May need additional hospitality. 4 teams. Charles can provide the budget for Cathy. \$1,800
- b. From Jen - We have been in touch with the festival organizers and are planning to have our application in soon. We have confirmation that our one team we have will be appropriate for the “improvers” category. (We

also plan to give our teams snazzier team names than the category names because that one particularly is a bummer of a label.) So we plan to have four entries: Improvers, High Impact, MacNab, and Display. I believe that the cost is \$40/team, for a total of \$120 if that is true!

We also have confirmation about renting the Canadian American Club for practices. These will be held on the weekends of:

Saturday and Sunday, February 7–8

Saturday and Sunday, March 21–22

These rentals will cost us between \$200–\$315 for practice space each weekend depending on how much time we decide on.

There are a number of folks coming from out-of-town for these practices. Help getting the word out for offers of hospitality in the Boston area for these weekends will be most appreciated soon. We are still in the process of finalizing what the practice schedule will be and then will want to reach out to local folks about ability to offer hospitality.

5. Nominating Committee (**Karen**)
  - a. No response. Linda to reach out. They have a copy of the bi-laws and who does what.
  
6. Fall Concert (**Cathy**)
  - a. Looking for concert venues. Only date available at the Armory is Nov 15<sup>th</sup>, and event would need to be from 2-4. This date/time is held, just in case. Lexington space we are on a second hold, they haven't heard back from the first hold yet.
  - b. Danielle Devlin – Allistair Fraser and Cantrip manager. It may be possible to book one of the musicians she manages.
  
7. Sheep Sheering Festival at Gore Place (**Cathy**)
  - a. Presented our idea to their committee, who enthusiastically agreed that RSCDS Boston would be a great addition to the event. They have booths we could rent (\$100 for non-profit), possibly receive a stipend for dancers demonstration. Cathy is willing to set up the booth, but she needs additional assistance in the planning of demo, etc.
  
8. ESCape (**Kat**)
  - a. Bursting at the seams for attendance. 86 people are in their lottery. 40 or 50 open spots are likely to be filled.
  
9. Pinewoods Scottish Sessions (**Kat**)
  - a. Registration is open. Co-chairs report session I is half full, and Session II is a little less than half full. Complete staff. All evening program drafts are ready. Schedules are in the works. Tech work to communicate with

software, and apple/google-pay are now an option (Jeremy to talk with Cathy).

10. Membership (**Anne**)

- a. 238 individual members currently. Working on the directory over the next few days to get to Meyer.
- b. Question: ESCape requires Boston branch membership even if they are already an RSCDS member. Is this a normal procedure? Yes.

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

- a. Some fixes were made to the page on the Pinewoods Benefit Ball
- b. A Teachers List was added to the Members Only page.
- c. Meyer and John Crabtree are working on adding photos of the Somerville Class to the slideshow.
- d. The Class Reference Sheet on the Branch Documents page has been updated.
- e. The website went live with this year's ESCape page.
- f. The website went live with this year's Scottish Sessions page.
- g. Meyer, Susie, and I agree that we should remove the TMC Roster from the TMC page. (That info and the Exec membership is already on the Who's Who page.) Put a link on the TMC page to the Who's Who page instead of listing the Roster.

12. Equipment (**Hana**)

- a. No news

13. Publicity and Social Media (**Alena**) Nikki has to step back, social media and publicity might need to be on hold for the moment.

14. NH Highland Games 2026 (**Karen**) No news

15. Bookstore and Archives (**Hana**) No news

16. *Tartan Times* (**Linda**) Nikki needs to step back from the *Tartan Times* and Publicity. Linda will talk to John/Jeremy about how to do some of the tech things. Send ideas for co-editing.

- a. What additional skills might dancers have to help participate in the branch activities? Graphic design?

F. Old Business

1. Terminology: report on teachers' meeting
  - a. Extent terminology is being used varies from class to class.

G. New business - None

H. Adjournment – 9:08pm approved

**Next Meeting: Feb. 25, 2026 7:00 PM**

**Preview scheduled business:** Concert/Ceilidh budget; candidates for Exec, Nom. Comm., and TMC

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## Executive Committee and Liaisons -- 2025-2026 *Rev. 1-6-26*

### 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:

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Salem, MA: MaryEllen Scannell

Kat Dutton:

Somerville : Kat Dutton