

Reaching out
on Campuses

Hours of
Minutes



Summer 2002 – Vol. XXVIII #2

Lost and Found
Our President
Announces New
Life Members

Dancing on College Campuses



**Notes from a NEFFA 2002
discussion led by Jenny Beer
and Joanna Reiner**

Why start a dance group on a college campus?

- Dancing is social, athletic, non-competitive, and participatory--not many other activities offer this combination.
- People who think they can't dance or aren't athletic turn into dancers.
- For local dance leaders--It's great fun to teach an enthusiastic, high-energy, mostly able-bodied group.
- Opportunity to 'grow' your own musicians.

Tempering your High Hopes

- College students will probably not stay in the area or become a part of your dance community. You are giving them the gift of dance that they may take and use elsewhere or at any point in their lives. And for the enthusiasts, you are giving a gift to some other dance community when the student moves on.
- Teaching students to do your favorite kind of dancing may not perpetuate it into the future. Dance styles are always changing and your students who love your kind of dance today may latch onto another kind tomorrow. That's okay. Teach them for today.
- Students don't all become good dancers, and may not particularly care about learning to dance well. Some may, but for the most part they come to dance because they want to have fun right now - not to wait for the fun to begin when they achieve a certain level.
- Folk dancing is not cool. In fact it is way uncool. It is not easy to overcome that for some students.
- Some students may have parents who dance -- few will bless your dance group with experience and enthusiasm.

(COLLEGE, Continued on page 2)

However, most go miles out of their way to avoid an activity associated with their parents.

- The college or university won't love your group because folk dance is a nice, wholesome activity. It brings zero prestige or benefits to college administrators or faculty (unless they personally like to dance). In fact, colleges are structured to keep their students away from the dozens and dozens of outside groups that would like to have a campus foothold.

What works?

- Repeat after me: Teenagers do things in clumps. Wooing individual students, especially if you are trying to get a group started, is not worth your time. Look for groups of students who might be interested (most likely are SCA, musicians into early music, folk music, or ensemble playing, sci-fi/gaming types, students who are already doing other kinds of dancing.)
- Help the students attract more students. Publicity and persuasion coming from them will be much more effective than anything you can do. Encourage them to bring a friend or two. Give public dance demonstrations whenever there's an opportunity. Dance on the lawns or while waiting to get into the dining hall. Keep the doors and windows open during your regular dances. Put up snazzy posters. Keep an up-to-date website (run by students).
- Don't call them "young people!" Students can feel as if they are a category not a person.
- If your dance is officially on campus, you need to have good connections to help you deal politically with college administrations, dance departments, PE departments, space schedulers, etc. The struggles for space, for credit, for funds never end.
- Dance community support can make your campus group survive. However, this support needs to be consistent and sustained. Liberal arts college students in particular are

Repeat after me: Teenagers do things in clumps.

isolated from the world. Anyone from outside the campus is a "stranger." Ask your community participants to come often and become part of the group, a resource for students and a link to the outside world, whether they are callers, organizers, community dancers and/or musicians.

- Students respond best to adults who provide steady, affectionate, playful support. College can be an emotional time, and students are still figuring out relationships, career, how to be an adult. They may develop strong attachment to adult dance leaders. Be prepared to handhold, to cheerlead!
- Student dancers tend to have different energy levels and different needs than your local dancers do. They are also incredibly scheduled up and burdened with schoolwork. This may mean that your dance should have more aerobic dances, a greater variety of dances to help avoid boredom, more frequent water breaks, and the dance evening may need to be shorter, etc.
- Food! Food! Food! Especially home-prepared goodies, since students live in cafeterias and pizza shops. Guaranteed to attract participants, and to create a cared-for feeling.
- Grad students are in a very different place than undergrads. A dance that might attract one group may not attract the other group.
- Dance events off campus seem very far away to a liberal arts college student, even if it's only a few blocks from the college. Students have their own lives on campus, and unless they are die hards, will not likely be interested in coming to your community dances. What can you do? Offer rides! (We can't over-emphasize how important this is). Offer them food as a further incentive, if you like, but leave it at that.
- Finding and keeping a space on campus is a major headache, even when the dance group is well-established. Large empty rooms with wood floors and decent acoustics are rare and someone else has more clout than you do in reserving them. Be flexible. Be creative. Be willing to move furniture and



Editor: **Dan Pearl**
 Editorial Review: **Shelagh Ellman-Pearl, Nancy Hanssen, Claire Reid, Lisa Greenleaf**
 Mailing: **Dayle Watts**

The **NEFFA News**, a publication of the New England Folk Festival Association, Inc., is published four times a year to communicate with its membership and other interested persons. **Please send all editorial submissions** to Dan Pearl, 15 Buffalo Run, Southborough, MA 01772, or to Daniel_Pearl@yahoo.com. Opinions of individuals are not necessarily the opinion of the NEFFA Executive Board.

Publicize your events! Display advertising or flyer enclosures are available for qualifying folk-related organizations. For more information, contact Dan at +1-508-229-2854.

Issue	Deadlines	
	Covering	Calendar Editorial
Apr.-Jul.	Jan. 20	Feb. 15
Jul.-Oct.	Apr. 20	May 15
Oct.-Jan.	Jul. 20	Aug. 15
Jan.-Apr.	Oct. 20	Nov. 15

haul your own keyboard.

- Students who have been dancing a number of years can sometimes dampen the spirits of newer dancers. Make sure that the group is run in a participatory, open manner, that brings new students into the loop. Encourage seniors to mentor and teach rather than project a jaded and bored attitude.
- Collaborate with other groups/depts. on campus - theater, music, other dance.
- Sponsor events so that the group has a project to work on together and a reason to learn to dance better.
- Look for devices to draw-in students - Jane Austen, medieval things, Scottish tartans, etc.
- Build a link with an academic class - Literature classes, music classes, Linguistics (here at Swarthmore a popular connection).

Joanna and Jenny have been involved with several college dance groups. Here's what we find helps sustain the dances at Swarthmore/Haverford/Bryn Mawr today.

- Even though our dances are taught by local musicians and dance leaders, the *students* are in charge as much as possible-- it is their club, their evening, their group of friends, their choice what kind of dance they want to learn.
- The colleges have Anglo traditions so that English/Contra/Scottish are not as foreign to administration or students as they might be on other campuses. Swarthmore's Folk Dance Club has been around for decades--we have strong alumni and community support.
- The Club puts on a Ball, a musicians' workshop, a contra series, demonstrations, and sometimes a guest workshop. This gives them something to work toward.
- We have had steady and wise faculty advisors who are willing and able to go to bat for the group when necessary, and who come dance/play music as one of the group.
- Two events a year (English Scottish Ball, Hogmanay) draw many returning alumni, sometimes from great distances. Graduating students look forward to coming back for those dances. Current students are awed to meet someone who started dancing in their club 35 years ago.
- Our dance groups are part of overlapping social networks - SciFi groups, SCA, Round singing, Early Music.
- Dance is offered for credit - PE, music ensemble, etc. This guarantees us about 10 dancers a night, even when the

semester heats up. (Our attendance this year has been between 20 and 30 a night.)

- Students help talk through or even teach the dances. Students also play for the dance.
- We plan our dance teaching loosely to respond to the mood and numbers of who shows up. Generally, the attention span and the time they can get away to come dance is much shorter than at our local dances.
- Students have favorite dances and we do them often.
- We help students find dance groups in their home towns, introduce them to dancers or musicians who can mentor them, help them get scholarships to dance camps, and in general connect them to the larger worlds of CDSS and RSCDS.
- We organize effectively to have events and advertisement at the beginning of the semester before students get engaged in other activities. In the Fall, we do whatever we can think of to attract Freshmen during the first weeks.

(this requires planning during vacation time).

- We hold a dance as soon as students come back to campus, before the official start of PE classes. - it's a good hook and gives students who may not want to

commit to a weekly dance some exposure to it.

- Bagpipes! Men in kilts! Morris dancers! Irresistible. Or at least attention-getting.
- While it is politically regrettable, our attractive, energetic, experienced male teacher is a strong draw for students of both genders.
- Live music has helped us increase attendance -- adds to energy levels, gives musicians a reason to come participate, attracts attentions from passers-by, improves dance quality.
- Our college dances are not open to the public. We ask people to consult with the leaders before coming. We welcome anyone who can keep up with students' mental and physical pace, can blend into the group while keeping the mood and leadership in the hands of students. We watch for men who are out looking for younger women.
- The groups maintain an email list and regularly update websites. Student leaders send out a weekly email of on and off-campus dance events. □

Bagpipes! Men in kilts! Morris dancers! Irresistible (or at least attention-getting).

Every NEFFA Festival is different, but yet the same: the Festival provides an oasis of camaraderie and a chance to try new experiences and revisit old pleasures. Last year, I had to miss most of the Festival to be with my mother during her last days of life. I wondered how it would be to attend this year, on the anniversary of that difficult time. As it turned out, this Festival brought enormous comfort and joy to me. It was so satisfying to watch the enjoyment of the participants: the performers, musicians, dancers, jammers, vendors and people chatting in the cafeteria and children playing outside. After the difficult events of this past year, NEFFA represents a relief from the harshness of the outside world, and a reminder of what is good about life and humanity, much as it did, I imagine, during the first NEFFA Festivals held during the Second World War.

With so much offered at the Festival, for each person the mix of pleasures is different. My five year-old was happy spending the entire weekend watching and imitating the Morris and sword dancing outside, and consuming vast quantities of smoothies and Philippine noodles! I hope those of you who came this year have many happy memories, too. Once again, I felt enormous satisfaction in having helped to make such a wonderful event happen. At our post-Festival evaluation meeting, the planning committee members were already enthusiastically developing ideas to make the next Festival even better.

As always, much hard work went into preparing for the Festival. I would like to thank everyone who helped to make the weekend the success it was. In particular, I would like to recognize the dedicated Board members who have recently relinquished major responsibilities. **Claire Reid**, our outgoing Vice President, has provided much valued advice and assistance to me as President. Claire continues on as co-chair of the Tickets Committee. **Jean Krogh** and **Bob Solosko** have recently stepped down as Co-chairs of the Membership Committee. Jean is also ending her term as a Director; Bob will head the Nominating Committee next year. **Michael Bergman** is stepping down as Chair of the Sound Committee, but he will continue as a member of that committee. **Peter Olszowka** has completed his term on the Nominating Committee, but will take over the Sound Committee and continue as the NEFFA

representative on the Springstep Advisory Committee. **Judy Schaffer** has left her position as Director to become Secretary. Thank you all! Your contributions have been invaluable.

In May, the NEFFA Executive Board awarded lifetime memberships to three members of the Board who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to NEFFA for many

decades. **Larry Jennings, Doris Possi and Angela Taylor**, all currently serving on the NEFFA Board, have, for years, dedicated themselves to help make NEFFA the outstanding organization it is, and help make the Festival an oft-imitated, but never duplicated, success. Their dedication for so many years

has influenced what NEFFA has become and will continue to shape NEFFA in the future.

In the past NEFFA has rarely given out life memberships. To my knowledge, the only recipients have been NEFFA founders, Ada Page (widow of Ralph) on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary celebration of NEFFA, and Ted Sannella. The contributions made by Larry, Doris and Angela are outstanding and deserve this recognition.

The service by Larry, Angela and Doris each has spanned at least 4 to 5 decades. Upcoming issues of the *NEFFA News* will include articles focused on each of our new Life Members. Here, however, is a brief summary of their contributions to NEFFA.

The first time Larry and Angela are listed as committee members in a Festival program book is 1951, when they are listed on the Exhibits Committee. Angela tells

me that before then, committee members weren't listed on the program book. Since then, **Angela** has volunteered as chair of the Arrangements, Publicity, Program and Food Committees, and has worked on other committees, including Membership and the former Spring Workshop and Fall Sale Workshop. She also has held the positions of Secretary, Assistant Executive Director, Vice President, Director and President. Since 1978, she has run the Folk Bazaar and she is a longstanding member of the Ralph Page Memorial Committee.

Arthur Ferguson

From the President's Desk

Shelagh Ellman-Pearl



(PRESIDENT, Continued on page 5)

NEFFA Word Search

Answer on page 6

by Rayna Tulysewski

Z S I S N A T I C K D A C N S
W T P C R E I S D S L O W W E
E F A E T E I B I O N O I F L
I A I R T G E T A T O N F I Y
F R G O N R S T R L G F H O T
A C M S Y I O A N E K P R M I
C M C R R E C N J U T A U M L
H D N R D O L H E E L I N Y A
E K O D R S B D N L R O G Y T
R M M N A Q W K E O L M V X I
S T E F A C X T T M R A H G P
Y R E O M H H I W A L T Z Q S
S T E V F K D H I M O L F W O
Y J L N M U L L A H N I A M H
K W R W A L O W E R H A L L U

AUDITORIUM
CRAFTS
HOSPITALITY
MEDLEY
PETRONELLA
SWING
ZWEIFACHERS
BALKAN
FOLK
LOWER HALL
MORRIS
SAFETY
VOLUNTEERS
CONTRA CORNERS
FOOD
MAIN HALL
NATICK
SIGNS
WALTZ

(PRESIDENT, Continued from page 4)

Larry has served on various committees including Arrangements, Nominating Committee, Activities, and Program. He has worked on numerous special projects and workshops, and served as an Advisor to the President and the Board. As head of the Bylaws committee, Larry played an instrumental role in writing the document that governs how our Executive Board is run. During the late 70's and 80's he was the proprietor of the NEFFA Contra series, a multi-caller dance that paved the way for "modern urban zesty" contra dancing everywhere. NEFFA published Larry's book *Zesty Contras*. Larry continues as an advisor to NEFFA, and a member of the Thursday Night Dance Committee.

Doris served as Dance Performance Chair continuously from 1963 through this year's Festival. Before then she was Exhibits Chair, and started out working on the Membership committee in 1958. Although Doris is stepping down as Dance Performance Chair she will continue to serve on the committee as an advisor.

At the Festival's Sunday afternoon dance performances, the Board gave a special tribute to Doris.

Now, as always, NEFFA is looking for more willing people who'd like to help us in any way, large or small, and share in the satisfaction of preserving and continuing the growth of our special oasis. If you would like to join us in this rewarding and fun effort, please let me know. Also, even though the evaluations have been passed in, it's not too late to share your thoughts! You may always submit comments to NEFFA by letter or email to neffa@neffa.org. Have a great summer!

Shelagh Ellman-Pearl
President

FOUND AT THE NEFFA FESTIVAL

Please scan this list for items you may have left behind at the Festival. If you recognize any item, please call NEFFA Lost and Found Central at 508-229-2854 or use the online Lost and Found form at the NEFFA website (http://www.neffa.org/~neffa/lost_and_found.html). After July 15, 2002, NEFFA will dispose of the items or donate them to charity.

Miscellaneous: Pressboard binder with Sacred Harp and Beatles Singalong material inside; a Velcro™ and leather strap of some sort; Alligator clamp; DARE change purse with coins and unusual tokens inside; Bead-stringing kit in plastic box; Umbrella "ICAD" blue and white; Umbrella blue portable

Music instruments/accessories: 1-piece wooden spoons with "Stuart Hoyt" (maker?) inscribed on side; Audio cable 10' long, ¼" phone plug on both ends; Triangle; Stand for stringed instrument; Black folding music stand

Water bottles: (2) Rubbermaid 1-qt bottles

Jewelry/Accessories: Silver and beaded bracelet; Silver and rhinestone C-shaped ring; Men's watch "Esquire"; Women's watch "Timex" gold/silver finish; Kid's beaded necklaces; Case with ring and "82" dangle on it; Gold charm, about ½" diameter; Leather string necklace with obsidian arrowhead

Eyeglasses: Non-prescription clip-on sunglasses; Nearsighted women's burgundy-finish wire frame; Plastic non-prescription sunglasses; Non-prescription sunglasses with gold metal frame in floral case inscribed with name of Maryland opticians; empty vinyl case

Baby-youth items: Toy field glasses "My First Binoculars"; Mini-abacus-like toddler toy; Ladybug castanet; Garfield squeeze toy; Denim cap; T-shirt "Green Dog" brand; Pants dark pink

Gloves: Black leather

Shoes: Pair women's black clog-like size 2; Left black fabric slipper with crepe sole "Coasters"

Hats: Multicolored acrylic winter cap; "K-Bull FM" baseball cap; Purple winter hat; Dark blue knit cap

Scarves/Kerchiefs: (2) traditional red bandanas

Pants/Shorts: Taupe "Columbia" shorts

Shirts/Blouses: Large black acrylic long-sleeve; "Eddie Bauer" XL women's dress shirt

Jackets: Windbreaker lime green with purple lining; Blue "Woolrich" coat with plaid lining

Sweatshirts: Gray "MAEL" on label; Gray "LL Bean" women's large

Sweaters: Purple knit sweater vest size "grande"; Gray wool with black and white design; Fleece green zipper-front



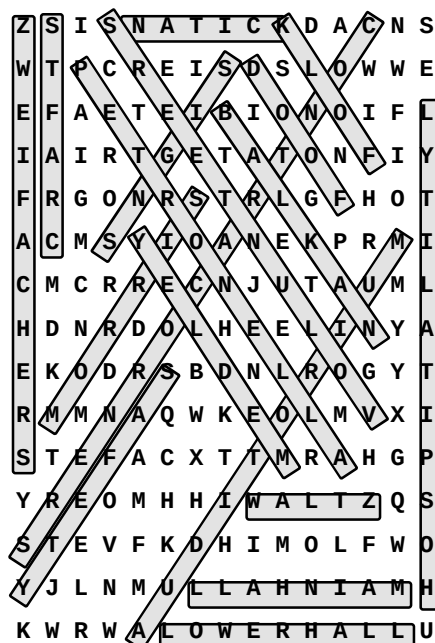
CRAFTS ROOM SEEKS EXHIBITORS

Craftspeople involved with folk music and dance are invited to apply for openings in the NEFFA Crafts Room for 2003. The Crafts Room provides a place for Festival goers to buy professional-quality crafts in an informal atmosphere. The room has a special demonstration area where exhibitors demonstrate their work. An effort is made to balance the types of crafts in the room. About 1/3 of the artisans are instrument makers.

Crafts Room exhibitors are selected through a juried process. Slides or photos are submitted in August. Decisions are based on the quality of the work and the current mix of crafts. New exhibitors are accepted for 3 years before they must be rejured. The booth fee is \$40 for each festival. The crafts booths must be open from the start of the festival each day until late at night when the last session ends. The hours are long but fun, since a lot of instrumental jamming happens in the crafts booths.

For more information or to receive an application, contact Ann Schunior at ann@schunior.org or 781-963-3190.

Word Search Answer



Summaries of the Minutes of the NEFFA Executive Board

February 10, 2002

President's Report — Bob and Jean are planning to send a separate mailing to people whose memberships have recently expired, since they will not otherwise get the mailing.

Shelagh received a report from the New Year's Eve Dance co-sponsored with the Folk Arts Center. In 2000 there were 80 people, income was \$261, and expenses were \$455.75. Folk Arts Center donates the fliers, mailing, and sound system. NEFFA makes up the shortfall. This year there were 60 people and income was \$260. Folk Arts Center would like to continue with these dances and make them a regular part of the NEFFA Family Dance and include it in the yearly program and publicity. The NEFFA contribution to this dance is "comparable" to the contribution to other family dances.

Treasurer's Report — Ralph stated that it is his understanding that when committee Chairs submit budgets for upcoming the Festival, they are supposed to include the previous year's budget and actual expenses. He thanked those who have done that this year. He also stated his willingness to provide information about actual costs to any who need it.

Ralph reported that so far the Ralph Page New England Dance Legacy Weekend for 2002 has a loss of \$3300. In 2001 the loss was \$1900 and in 2000 it was \$2500.

Shelagh reported that the financial review has been completed. Ralph reported that all tax and 1099s have been filed.

Ralph Page Memorial Committee — Shelagh read the report from Chair, Dave Bateman. He is still waiting for all bills to get final financial picture for the dance weekend. Programmatically, the Ralph Page New England Dance Weekend was very successful. There were some issues with the food and other site issues.

The committee is looking at the structure of the committee. They feel that there should be limits on how long a person should be Chair, and Dave is ready to step down. The secretary will continue. George Fogg has found the original charter that they will use in their planning. Shelagh reminded them that all new members of their committee must be approved by the NEFFA Executive Board.

Angela reported that the music was fabulous and the callers were all excellent. There was a comfortable number of people in attendance. But there were some issues working with UNH that need to be worked out in the future.

Crafts (Ann Schunior, Co-Chair) — Ann and Susan Tornheim have taken over from Mary Stafford. She made it very easy for them as everything was so well organized. The first thing they did was change the schedule and ask the vendors to apply 6 weeks earlier. It worked. They will have 3 new vendors: a glass blower, a person who uses stained glass and

antique glass, and one who uses paper and has things especially nice for kids. Susan will be at the Festival on Friday for set up. Ann will be there on Saturday and Sunday working in her own booth.

They have identified three problems:

- ⇒ During the dance performances in the main hall the door near the Activities room is blocked. Safety should watch it and move people out.
- ⇒ During the dance performances the performers waiting to enter the Main Hall blocked one of the booths. They cannot move the booth. There is no room inside the Main Hall for the dancers to wait. There is another door that leads to locker rooms. Harold and others will investigate this during the walk-through. This may also be a stage management issue.
- ⇒ It is very hot in the Crafts room and they have tried to deal with it using 4 fans. But these fans take up space in the booths and the vendors are tired of it. The only windows available open into the Main Hall and they are always open in recent years. The vendors need to be told that the fans stay and must be on – otherwise it will be so hot in the room that customers will not stay there to shop.

Access (Rayna Tulysewski) — We are not going to offer any interpreted events since they have not been used in the past. Michael Bergman is stepping down from the committee, but will see that Rayna has training in the use of the listening devices – however, no one has asked to use them yet.

The wooden ramp to the Lower Hall overflow room is barely wide enough for wheelchairs. However, it is the same size as the door, so that may be a bigger problem. There is a pole in the middle of the door that is hard to remove, so we should insure that the custodians take care of that. There is also a new elevator that was locked last year, but could be useful for those in wheelchairs.

Activity Room — Shelagh read a report from Linda Palmstrom, Chair. The room will look very similar to last year. Call her if you have any new ideas. She would like a check for \$600 to buy supplies.

Folk Bazaar (Angela Taylor) — There will be 3 new vendors; Jewish music, musical instruments for kids, Eskimo art.

This year Angela received her first complaint about a vendor. Someone purchased a fiddle that was misrepresented. The buyer is not going to push on this, but hopes that we will not invite the person back. We cannot follow-up on the problem as the phone number of the vendor has been disconnected.

There will also be a booth for the Springstep Center for Traditional Dance and Music so that they can provide information for the fund drive. Angela asked if we should give them the space for free. It was decided that we should for this first year.

The woman who does the Dutch booth has a problem because she also has a food booth in the cafeteria and her son will not be able to help this year. She has asked if she could package her food and sell it at the bazaar booth. It was agreed that this would be not workable, as no food is allowed outside the cafeteria.

Food (Maureen Carey) — Maureen asked the Board if it was permissible to have one less food booth this year. There was an extra one last year that caused problems. There was difficulty for the electrician and it was hard to find space for 14 booths.

Maureen reported that the soup booth is not returning and the Cafeteria ladies do not want to do the kids' food again.

A problem with an uncooperative booth is being worked on.

Also in the works is a booth that will serve Italian food presented by the gay and lesbian dance community.

There was a logistics problem with Coke-supplied coolers last year. The committee is going to pay more attention to the whole Coke system.

Last year we had a problem with refrigeration. Dan is looking into renting more capacity this year from a new vendor. He will continue to work on logistics, electrical issues, and finding the best vendors.

Safety — John Wojtowicz sent in a report that he has nothing to report, except that he is looking for a new assistant. He especially needs someone to handle his role at the Festival on Friday night.

Inside Facilities (Harold Henry) — We have the contract from the school. We have the pianos. We have the rental vendors. Still need to contact the Fire and Police. We do not know if the Police will require more coverage after Sept. 11.

Harold will be setting up a walk-through. He will send out a couple of possible dates. If you cannot attend but have questions that need answers send them to Harold.

The Piano people would like to have acknowledgement in the Program booklet. They have provided us with lots of help and discount rates for many years and are really just looking for some thanks. The language should be similar to what we have used for the Army Labs. Steve should review the language.

Linda reported that many of the performers have requested adjustable piano benches. Harold said that the company used to bring them but some were broken and some were lost. They are going to bring 3 this year, and Harold told them they could put some identification on them.

Outside Facilities (Dan Pearl) — The Army Labs are not available for parking this year. Thanks to Dayle, we will be using the TJX parking lot. There will be more than enough space but it is farther away. This will require that we have more buses running, especially during the high volume times. Dan has requested that the bus company provide 5 buses instead of 3. The ride will be approximately 10 minutes. We will also need to have 2 porta-poties, so it will be more expensive.

There was some discussion of whether all cell phone companies

work at Natick H.S. Cell phones will be less effective because if you are in a noisy area you may not be able to hear. Dan will continue to try and find the parts for the pagers. Harold will ask the custodians about the cell phone use.

Dan reported that the Dance Flurry gets Nextel phones as a donation. But there are Nextel banners all over the Flurry. The Board has already decided we don't want corporate sponsorship, so Dan is not pursuing this unless the Board forces him to do it.

Dan will also look at Family Radio System technology.

Outside Signs (Dayle Watts) — Dayle discussed her budget. She also told the Board that we are supposed to have a Permit to put up the signs all over town.

Last year, the Natick Police Department was downsized and Dayle's committee and volunteers had to put up all the No Parking signs. She will need more volunteers this year.

It may be necessary to get some different signs to direct traffic to the new parking lot. There will also be a free-standing place to pick up a map for those who mistakenly go to the Army Labs.

Harold asked if Dayle wanted a van for her exclusive use. The cost will be about \$80. They will discuss it later.

Performer Sales — Shelagh read the report from Susan Janssen. The shelving used in the past must be replaced this year. The price of the new shelves has not been determined yet.

Printed Materials (Linda Leslie) — Bob Golder will work with Linda to make the Program Book this year. They have some ideas to improve the usefulness of the booklet.

Shelagh asked Linda if Janet is going to do the evaluations again this year. Linda hopes so. Shelagh asked Linda to tell Janet to let the Board know if she needs any feedback.

Program Committee (Linda Leslie) — We will have a Native American group this year. They are from Natick.

Publicity (Jessica Holland) — The press release is going out soon. Jessica will check with Doris and Linda to be sure that everything mentioned in it is actually on the program this year.

Jessica wants to use photos of the dance performance groups that the group leaders are sending to her. She asked if she needs to give credit to the person who took the photo. This is not necessary if she identifies the group in the photo. She also asked if we have to identify the children in the photo. If the group sends her the photo then that is a defacto release to use it.

Jessica also asked if she could use the lists of publicity outreach locations developed for NEFFA for another group that she represents. Shelagh said there was no problem with that.

Sound (Peter Olszowka) — The sound contractors have provided their quotes and they will be doing the contracts in a week or so.

Harold asked if we have tried to contact the high school radio group to see if they would like to volunteer to help with the sound? Judy will contact them. She has already got the Ashland high school group to volunteer.

Tickets (Dave Reid) — Dave displayed a black and white sheet of the ticket design for this year. It is more or less the same each year, but he varies the colors. He will hand out the tickets at the March meeting. Dan asked if there will be Complimentary Tickets and Dave said he would have 125 printed.

Bob Solosko asked if someone else could print the “strips” for the Board name badges.

Site Committee — Shelagh reported that the committee to develop plans for a new site does not have a Chair. She asked what the latest gossip is concerning the renovations to Natick H.S. Nancy Hanssen reported that the town is spending so much money on the middle school that the high school renovations will probably be postponed – perhaps for a long time.

Nominating Committee (Peter Olszowka) —

We have a full slate except that we need one more Director.

Bob and Peter have had several people say that they do not want to be on the Board but would like to serve on a sub-committee. Shelagh asked them to give her the names. They have had others say that they would consider it in a year or two. They will pass those names on to the next nominating committee. Peter would also like to have a list of all the people who have served on the Board over the last 25 years – he will approach them a little differently if he knows they have already served. These names would be available in the archive of Program Booklets in the NEFFA office.

Shelagh said that it is time to reprint the Board Manual. If any current board members do not have a copy please contact Shelagh. Should we consider a version of this for perspective board members? It was also suggested that we make the manual electronic so that it can be emailed.

Springstep (Peter Olszowka) — The advisory board is going to have a retreat to clearly define what their role will be once the building is in place. It will also help with fund raising. Another issue for the retreat is a need to define the line between the Folk Arts Center and Springstep.

Jean asked if Springstep is an umbrella organization with NEFFA under the umbrella. The answer is “no”. Springstep is more of a service provider and we are renting space. This should be further defined by the retreat. NEFFA also has a broad charter (more than just the Festival) and there could be overlap with Springstep. Perhaps Springstep can take over some things for us – for example the Dance Calendar.

Angela shared a small card that she carries that has the purpose of NEFFA. She suggested that these cards need to be distributed again. The card is similar to our bylaws.

Other Business — Maureen reported that Audrey, who has the Buzz Stop in the Cafeteria, would like to set up a massage chair near her booth. She asked the Board to consider this. Linda reminded us that there was a person giving massages without permission at the Festival last year. When asked to leave, she just moved outside. Angela said that she had one as part of the Bazaar several years ago and that person didn’t make

enough money to come back.

Anyone who wishes to do this sort of thing must get a permit from the Natick Board of Health. And it definitely should not be located in the Cafeteria. It could be located near the sleeping area. Angie has already told several people that there is no good place. We can see if we can identify a suitable place during the walk-through. But if we do sanction a massage area, the Board must know who has been sanctioned – and to whom to report any unauthorized people for removal. Also, the sanctioned person must have her license on display and have the proper insurance.

Rayna reported that she knows of a person who looked into getting a license in Natick and was told that there must be hot water and soap nearby so that hands can be washed after each massage. This probably eliminates the high school as a suitable place.

With regards to asking people to leave the grounds, we do have that authority.

Jean reported that she and Bob are looking for someone else to do Membership. They will step down this summer.

March 10, 2002

Secretary’s Report — The motion to approve the minutes of the February meeting passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer’s Report (Ralph Jones) — A motion to drop the requirement of a second signature on checks was passed. Shelagh will get copies of bank statements sent to the president so that transactions can be checked. Transactions can also be checked online.

There are still outstanding performer sales checks that have not been cashed. It was suggested that the checks be stopped, but there is an unreasonable fee associated with that. Shelagh suggested that the NEFFA newsletter print a list of unclaimed checks. The list will also be given to Susan Janssen so she can let performers know. Dan Pearl suggested that the checks be reissued (incorporated into the 2002 post-Festival checks).

Ralph Page Memorial Committee (Shelagh Ellman-Pearl) — No official report is available. The RPMC would like to meet with the NEFFA board to get direction. Shelagh will contact Dave Bateman to try to arrange a retreat with RPMC and some NEFFA executive board members. The NEFFA retreat meeting could be used to provide direction and set expectations.

Access (Rayna Tulysewski) — Rayna went to the site walkthrough and thinks that the wheelchair ramps will be sufficient. We will not be using the elevator if we don’t have to.

Dan Pearl will lay out the new parking diagrams showing additional handicapped parking. More handicapped parking is needed this year since the 55 spaces allotted last year were filled. People parked in the designated handicapped spaces will be able to enter the building through the loading dock ramps. From there they will have to go to the main entrance for their tickets.

Dayle will need to make new signage showing the new parking arrangements.

Parking (Dan Pearl) — Handicapped parking will be designated for the lower lot.

As last year, people at the Ticket Table can issue the last minute NEFFA handicapped parking permits. Dan will make the parking permits. Dan suggested that we need a volunteer at the entrance to the lower parking lot making sure that all cars going there have either handicapped tags or a NEFFA parking permit.

Activity Room (Shelagh Ellman-Pearl) — Nothing to report since last meeting. Shelagh will call Linda Palmstrom to make sure everything is running smoothly. Linda Leslie needs to get the Activity room schedule this week in order to include it in the program book. The deadline for the program book was supposed to be today!

Crafts (Ann Schunior & Susan Tornheim) —

Introductions were made for Susan – welcome Susan!!! During the walkthrough a plan was created for keeping the doors clear during the dance performances. The area by the blue doors to the stairwell can be used for staging performers. Nick the electrician and the sound people need to make sure that all sound and power cables are well taped and marked in that area. Rayna will prepare information for the performers on where they can stage/enter the Main Hall. This information will go out with Doris' next performer mailing in early April.

Ann would like to put something in the NEFFA newsletter requesting craftspeople to apply for space in the crafts room next year.

Folk Bazaar (Angela Taylor) — The new athletic office will displace the hospitality table, and the increased congestion in the hallway means the Folk Art Center of New England (FACONE) table will need to be moved.

Several suggestions were made, including moving FACONE near Princess Winona, but they would get reduced table space due to the restriction of the width of the hall and the need for clearance by the doors for fire safety. John Wojtowicz thinks this is a good idea because FACONE would displace the frequent overly-large jam sessions that block the doorways creating a fire hazard.

Rayna suggested moving FACONE next to the coat racks, but Angela says this isn't a good location as it's drafty. Shelagh would prefer to put the hospitality table outside the new office rather than between the two bathrooms because there is less traffic, or to put Hospitality and Safety by Princess Winona. If Hospitality is put by the bathrooms on Friday night, we could see how it works out for one evening, and move it across the hall if it doesn't work. This would be easy in terms of creating the site map because the whole area could be designated for hospitality. Plus, it is likely that we will easily find phone drops next to the new office. The final details of where the Hospitality, Safety, and FACONE will be moving to need to be worked out by

members of the Hospitality, Safety, and Folk Bazaar Committees.

Angela missed the walkthrough (because she didn't receive the email announcement). She would like to check on the lighting in one of the hallways. Shelagh will arrange another walkthrough with Angela and Jane.

Springstep want to run a video, so their power requirements need to be given to Harold Henry ASAP.

Hospitality (Shelagh Ellman-Pearl) — Lee Fisher will assist Shelagh at the Hospitality table this year.

Instrument Check (Shelagh Ellman-Pearl) — Laura Leibensperger will replace Michael Anthony as the supervisor of the Instrument Check Table for the Festival, although Michael will help her with set-up. Michael has a new business opportunity that has come up and will be taking all his time in the next few months.

Food (Maureen Carey) —

Maureen and Mary have resolved issues with the problematic food booth. The booth will be at the Festival this year. To prevent issues from arising during this Festival Maureen will be sending them a letter outlining what NEFFA expects of them. They understand that if there are continued problems this year then they will not be invited back next year.

Dan Pearl is waiting on information from Nick regarding portable refrigeration for outside the loading

dock. He may be able to get a walk-in refrigerator. Otherwise, we will have to use what we used last year.

Housing (Diane Mathieson & Ed Budreau) — There is currently enough space, if Maureen accepts a family with children (and she says she will). That makes 14 spaces and 14 applicants. Need to put out flyers at Thursday night dances requesting hosts, particularly people willing to host children.

Safety (John Wojtowicz) — Sandy Ryan is helping John this year. John will try to be at the Festival on Friday afternoon, but due to reasons beyond his control, he may not be able to make it until Friday night. He needs talk to Nancy Hanssen about volunteer requirements. Everything is the same as last year except for the location of the hospitality and safety table and of the handicapped parking.

Outside Signs (Dayle Watts) — Dayle needs to get a permit from the Natick Police to hang the signs. Army lots will have placard and flyers with directions to TJX, but there will not be street signage from the army lots.

Operations (Dan Pearl) — All of the pagers are being refurbished and should be ready for use by the Festival. Dan or Dayle will send complimentary Festival tickets to our contacts at TJX.



Performer Sales (Shelagh Ellman-Pearl) — Susan Janssen will be away NEFFA weekend. She will need help with coverage for the table for the weekend. If you know of anyone, have him or her contact Susan or Shelagh.

Printed Materials (Linda Leslie) — Janet Yeracaris is putting together the evaluation form. If anyone has any specific requests for the form, they should contact Janet ASAP. This evaluation form will include questions about the usefulness of the program book. It will also ask people if they have suggestions for a new Festival site.

The preliminary grid has been released.

Dance Performances (Doris Possi) — Doris will include in her early-April mailing to the performers instructions about which staging areas and entrances to the Main Hall can be used, and which doorways and halls need to be kept clear. Rayna will be typing up this information.

Publicity (Shelagh Ellman-Pearl) — Linda Leslie will be on Folk Heritage on WGBH on April 13th. The interview is supposed to be 20 minutes or so, but usually lasts as long as 45 minutes. Linda will mention on the air the change in parking venue to try to get as many people as possible to go directly to TJX without going to the army lot first.

NEFFA will appear in the March/April Calendar section of a new-age magazine that Susan Tornheim copyedits called *Body and Soul*.

Sound (Peter Olszowka) — The contracts with the professional sound engineers are ready for signatures. Verbal agreements with the vendors are already in place. The sound volunteer mailing went out a month ago. We've received a couple dozen responses, but we need many more to fully staff the sound schedule. We need more sound engineers! Peter Olszowka will be teaching a sound engineering workshop on Sunday 24 March at his home in Somerville. Dan will put the sound volunteer forms back up on the website. Peter will work with Doris Possi to create a mailing to performers with instructions on how to provide music media (cassettes, CDs, etc) for their performances.

Tickets (David Reid) — 9600 tickets were printed. David will send 15 comp tickets to Shelagh. If anyone else needs comp tickets, they should contact David directly.

Volunteers (Nancy Hanssen)

Nancy feels that the response to the call for volunteers has been slower this year. Nancy does have some volunteers from the web that have indicated they want to do sound or safety. Nancy will pass on the names only to Judy and John. If we don't have full contact info in the sound database, we can go back to Nancy to get that info.

Nancy wants the web deadline of the volunteer form to be ASAP (not the 22nd). She does not want the form taken off the web until she gives the nod.

Nancy is still waiting for volunteer requirements from Dayle and Dan (including sweeping assistants)

Early Entry (Mari Young) — A week before the Festival, Mari needs a list for each Festival day that contains the names of all the people that need to get in to the Festival prior to 7:00pm on Friday or 9:30am on Saturday or Sunday. Nancy Hanssen will provide input to this list, and Judy Schaffer will provide input into Nancy's list.

Site (Dan Pearl) — The site committee had a meeting after the board meeting in February. The committee settled on a basic procedure for continuing, and determined that we need to develop a phone screening protocol. Dan sent around a list for site ideas. We will invite management from the sites that we can pre-qualify over the phone to the Festival so they can see what we are about.

Springstep (Peter Olszowka) — Peter attended the retreat on February 17th. It was a 3 hour meeting to brainstorm ideas for member groups and how Springstep might help them. It was noticed that all groups have nearly identical first sentences in their mission statements. No conclusions were formed at the retreat. The big activity is publicizing Springstep, and that is being done via home parties where a virtual walkthrough video is played (the same video that will be shown at the Festival).

Springstep had discussions with the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and while they may get a token donation, there's no serious money from that source.

T-Shirt — According to Lisa Greenleaf, the design is still in progress.

Membership (Bob Solosko) — People are not renewing their memberships. Approximately 350 "please rejoin" letters were sent. Approximately 60 were returned. We may need to do this every year.



Photo: Arthur Ferguson

Miscellaneous

- The dates for next year's Festival are: April 25, 26 & 27.
 - Floors are swept before performances. Brooms are left just off-stage for easy reach in case additional sweeping is required.
 - Dan reported that the piano at the VFW is being replaced. Anyone interested in acquiring the old piano should contact Dan.
 - Shelagh noted that performers and craftspeople have a competitive or some kind of review process in order to be invited back to NEFFA. Should something like this be implemented for food vendors and folk bazaar vendors? This may be a suitable retreat topic for September.
- § The September retreat will be on the 15th from 10:00am to 4:00pm-ish. It was acknowledged that this is the start of Yom Kippur.
- § Shelagh will talk to Dayle about arranging pizza and drinks for the Sunday takedown crews.
- § Judy will take notes again at the annual meeting. Shelagh will give the secretary's report
- § Club Passim wants to know if we want to advertise in their newsletter. All said "no".
- § Linda Leslie would like to put the ramifications of increased web inquiries as one of the agenda topics for the September retreat.
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The New England Folk Festival Association, Inc. is a non-profit educational and cultural organization, incorporated under the general laws of Massachusetts to preserve folk traditions in New England and elsewhere; to encourage the development of a living folk culture; and to encourage high standards of quality and performance in the folk arts.

Membership entitles one to voting privileges, publications, and to reduced admission to selected NEFFA-sponsored activities. It is open to interested persons who support our objectives.

Annual Dues are \$7/individual (\$18 for 3 years); \$11/family (up to 2 people over 18) (\$28 for 3 years) Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. Send check, payable to NEFFA, to the office. Occasionally, NEFFA shares its mailing list for a one-time use by like-minded folk organizations. If you do not want your name and address shared in this way, tell us with your membership. **Please direct all inquiries** to the NEFFA office: PMB 282, 1770 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02140 or (781) 662-6710.

Interested persons can get on NEFFA's mailing list for one year at no charge. Send request with full name and address to the office.



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