The Move To Mansfield

Parking Update  Jean Krogh, Parking Chair

The news is good about parking at NEFFA’s new location in Mansfield! Around the high school and the middle school are multiple lots, some small and some larger. Across the road are two elementary schools within easy walking distance of the Festival; each has parking areas that will be available to us that weekend.

And when all those lots are full, there are two commuter lots near the Mansfield train station that we will be using.

Over these next months, we will be working on parking signage and directions. Though there most likely will be a few parking glitches this first year in our new location, we hope to minimize glitches and maximize ease and convenience of parking for Festival attendees and vendors.

And we will welcome your feedback at the end of the Festival to help us do even better in following years.

Ethnic Clothing Exchange at Festival?  Angela Taylor, Folk Bazaar Chair

The Folk Bazaar is considering adding a booth for exchange of ethnic clothing (not instruments) depending on feedback from you!

Do you have ethnic clothing or items that are taking up space in your closet or drawers? Maybe someone is looking for something you have!

Would you like to work on this project? This would include these tasks:

- Help make contacts with people (giving or getting)
- Listing of item available – prospects
- Pricing should include a small percentage for NEFFA
- Work on booth (full time or part time)
- Transporting items if necessary

Contact me, Angela Taylor at 781-646-8549, if you are interested in this project.
**In Passing**

**Conny Taylor** passed away on November 3, 2006 at age 85.

Conny Taylor taught folk dance workshops and school programs all over New England, in Virginia and Quebec, and at Oquaga Camp in NY and Texas Folk Dance Camp. He was a frequent leader at Ralph Page’s East Hill Farm and Year End Camps and served on the New England Folk Festival Association planning committees in the 1950s.

Conny began teaching international folk dance and Scottish country dance in the Boston area in 1953. He received his B.S. in Recreation from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in 1954. At the Cambridge YWCA in 1955 and ’56, he started the international folk dance classes and parties that later became the Thursday, Friday, and monthly Saturday series still run by the Folk Arts Center of New England. In 1975 he co-founded the Folk Arts Center and served as its President and Technical Director. He ran the the Copley Square outdoor summer folk dances and the Oktoberfest Folk Dance Weekend in Stowe, VT for many years and helped initiate FAC’s Pinewoods Camp sessions. In recent years, Conny was a guest at FAC’s Pinewoods and Oktoberfest camps and at the San Antonio Folk Dance Festival.

-- From the Folk Arts Center of New England website

**Singers Wanted in Philadelphia**

Svitanya, an Eastern European women's vocal ensemble in the Philadelphia area, is looking for women who love to sing and are interested in our style and repertoire. Please browse www.svitanya.org to learn about our music and history, hear sound clips from our CDs and get more audition details.

Questions? Email info@svitanya.org, or call Anne at 215-848-2068.

-- Christine Steele
Summary of the Minutes of the NEFFA Executive Board

15 October 2006

Treasurer's Report (Ralph Jones)

Dan: Financially, things are not fine. NEFFA assets peaked in 2000 and have been going down. We’re a little low for comfort. Ralph: It’s a little artificial. Linda: What was the hit between 2001 and 2002? Peter: Springstep.

Ralph: But we got that money back in FY 2003. These numbers include getting the Springstep money back. In both of those years, we lost money on the Festival. Membership income went down. Laura: Were ticket sales down? Ralph: No, they were up and we raised rates. There was one year when the stock market went down. Bob: Did people renew at the Festival rather than during the year in 2001? Peter: The site search is listed under Festival Expenses: That’s a big chunk. And then everyone came in a little over. Sound is a big item. I’m going to put contracting up for bid this year. That may bring things down a bit. In the main hall, we’ve been going with high end speakers. If we go for a cheaper contractor, we may not get speakers this good. Linda: The two gyms will need comparable sound, one way or the other. Peter: We will have a Main Hall style layout. Linda: We should use a different system in each room so we can compare.

Linda: If The Board wants to look into money generating or money saving ideas, we should get in gear. Ideas: performers pay $5 each, performers give a suggested donation? Can we reduce costs? Do we need the program book? Could people pay for them? Maureen: We can say ‘We have your attention now’. This move is expensive, this is the time we need a donation, we don’t want to raise ticket prices. Rethinking this piece may not fit into our normal schedule. I think we need a committee. Bethany: Could we get someone to donate printing? Dan: We haven’t looked into sponsorship. We do put a small mention of sponsorship on the piano. Bethany: Is there something more low key than sponsorship?

Dan: Fundraising and publicity are tied together. Corey should be in on this. Maureen, Bethany, and Laura will be on a committee to look into ideas on saving and generating money.

President’s Report (Maureen Carey): Mansfield school issues

1. Occupancy. Occupancy of the cafeterias is a major issue to Mansfield. We will bend over backwards to do things their way if we can get the right space.

2. Mansfield is also pushing for professional qualifications for all people selling food. I take the view that we will be using their professional people. About half are professional now.

3. Nick the electrician is working in NJ. Julia is trying to connect us with the electrical people here to figure out our needs. Then we can put it to bed until Nick gets back.

Program Committee Report (Linda Leslie and Janet Yeracaris)

1. Linda: Is this the time to move performances to the Auditorium stage?

Janet: I’m not sure how long it’s been in the gym. Linda: This started when there was only one hall. Now we can have a dedicated auditorium. We want to have two equal halls, not like “Main and Lower”. Bleacher seating is not extensive in either gym; many performers prefer the auditorium. CDS and RSCDS would have a harder time because they fill the space. Peter: It’s not great for watching dance because you have to look up (in both auditoriums). Michael: I’m not sure it’s a bad thing to stop dancing and watch. Janet: The Natick auditorium is huge – these are about 600 each. Bethany: Could we have dance performances simultaneously in both gyms? Janet: No, Katy and I can’t be in both places, and we’d need 2 stage crews. Diane: How is handicapped seating? Janet: There is a ramp. Maureen: It’s better...
than Natick. Dan: How long are performance groups willing to hang around? Could we have two identical sessions? We could double the crowd capacity by splitting the crowd. Janet: It might be hard on performers. Also, some people overlap in several groups. We should test the demand. We haven’t gone out looking. We could give people longer slots. Right now using the Main Hall is easier than the auditorium. Maureen: Will a good green room make things easier? Janet: Yes and we’ll also have a stage door.

Janet: About half the Sunday groups would do well in the Auditorium. Maureen: I have a huge prejudice – it shouldn’t come down to my opinion. You and Janet should decide. Janet: The biggest reason is sentimental.

2. Linda: We’d like to increase the transition time - sessions will end 5 minutes sooner.

Ralph: Why don’t we have a “NEFFA hour”? Linda: We better stay on real time. Ralph: We’ve always had a 15 minute grid. Maureen: And the attendees will have time to get around. Linda: We’ll have more hours of dancing, so dancers shouldn’t miss the time. I’d like to have an open waltz right after the medley. This would give us room to move. Robert: Are you proposing this from now on? Linda: No, we will have to evaluate. Dan: Do we need to schedule 15 minutes dead time before megabands and special events? Peter: We don’t really do sound checks.

3. Linda: Right now, we have a grid for participatory dance. We are working out our philosophy to adjust to the increased program hours. This (High School) auditorium is best for dance performance and Folk Music and Song. The other one will be for family, “esoteric” events etc. The Activity Room should perhaps be in the Middle School. Dan: Having a family nexus may be a good idea.

4. Linda: Looking at the Program timeline: In Jan, the preliminary grid goes to performers. The flier goes out then. We need to know what the rooms will be called. Harold: We might want to save names like Lyric, North Star. Linda: We will also use room numbers, the sign people will need those also. Maureen: We’ll make this a topic at the Nov. meeting. Linda: I’ll collect ideas by email. Harold: Will we have more rooms? Linda: I think we may have the same; we could fill another room with chats. Dan: Could you send out an inventory of rooms. Linda: Julia has occupancy numbers. We will put in that number of chairs and say ‘No Standees’. Maureen: People will have to self police. The school is adamant about numbers, and the Fire Dept will enforce. Linda: We may need a room manager and volunteers. Robert: I like the idea of a roving manager. Bob: We need signage. Dan: This is a safety issue. The safety person should be there at the beginning of the session. Ann: Linda probably knows the problematic performances. Maureen: We do not have a safety chair now. Linda: Should this be separate? Harold: it should stay with safety. Suzanne should pick appropriate rooms. Linda: Suzanne has done this before. Bob: Do we know if capacities are less than or more than the comfortable number of chairs? Bethany: What if the group is 20 performers? Maureen: Performers are factored in. Ed: They may not be considered part of the public. I’m worried about medleys. Linda: The halls are big enough. Diane: What about handicapped access? Linda: We’ll put in fewer chairs than capacity – leave 10 or 20 slots open. Maureen: Where do we get volunteers? Linda: Some people might like to volunteer to sit at a concert. Laura: What about school connections? Maureen: What about Alan? Bob: Maybe Safety could manage the dance halls. Linda: We might not need anyone Friday night. Robert: I’m willing to be involved. Maureen: Mark has given notice on Parking.

TNDC Report (Dan Pearl): A lot of kids have gone back to school, it’s a little smaller but we’re not losing money.

Festival Committee Reports

Crafts (Ann Schunior)

Jean and I spent a lot of time in the High School cafeteria with graph paper. We like it. We can have a familiar layout. We want to put booths between the posts. We’re having trouble recruiting because we can’t give them full info. We’ll have 32 booths: more than what we’ve had, we’ll have a slightly larger demo area. We’ll have demos during the day. We’re also thinking of small quiet acoustic performances. We want more control than open jamming. If we get sound from the Main Hall, we won’t need additional music. We are not going to use the vending machine corner. Could some kind of food and drink go here? Linda: We need to talk about space for Morris.

Ann: We’d have to cut too much craft space. We wouldn’t be able to squeeze in the center island of booths. We also need to know what the hours will be. If we’re in the HS cafeteria, we will have full hours. At the Junior High, we might think of closing earlier. Robert: You could go above or below the ceilings with electricity, it shouldn’t be difficult. Dan: The school needs to be comfortable with us bringing in an electrician.

Folk Bazaar (Angela Taylor)

I’d like to be in the same building as the cafeteria. Jean: One section of the lobby is very wide. Angela: We need to know when we can look at space. Ralph: You can do it now.

Housing (Diane Mathieson & Ed Budreau)

Diane: In this area there are only 2300 hotel rooms. The largest hotel has 200 rooms. Volunteer housing will probably not happen, but we already have people on the waiting list. Everybody wants to be 10 minutes away. We have NEFFA discounts with most hotels. Rates are $85-$115 according to distance. We’re measuring around 95/495. Linda: Consider Rt. 24 - Rt. 24 is only a problem from the south. We do have some inns and B and B’s. Dan: We specify that these are not recommendations.
We are trying to make reservations for handicapped rooms. One hotel was very accommodating. I will deal with any hotels that are not being responsive about handicapped rooms. We have a contract for 20 rooms with special rates at the Holiday Inn. Bethany: What about campers who used to camp in the lower lot? They need to know that they won't be able to camp. Harold: Mansfield has restrictions about parking campers overnight. We should get an official statement. Dan: We are settled that we won't allow camping. Peter: Could we find somebody with private property who would allow camping? Dan: There's a great campground just minutes away (Normandy Farms).

Inside Facilities (Harold Henry)
I've got photos of the plans on CD. I need to fix them up a little. Dan: Can I put up a pdf on the website. Harold: I need to find out if Peterson comes down here. We also need to find a storage space. Ralph: We're paid through June or July at The Natick storage.

Sound (Peter Olszowka)
Nothing new. I did some research on accepting credit cards. We could probably borrow terminals from ARISIA. It costs them 3%. We would need an account with their bank. There's also (return charges).

Grants Committee (Robert Johnson)
Presentation of grant request from David Millstone by Robert Johnson. Motion made by Ralph Jones to approve the Grant Committee's recommendation to make a grant of up to $650 to David Millstone for his film documentary about Dudley Laufman. Seconded by Peter Olszowka, carried by voice vote (unanimous).

November 5, 2006

President's Report (Maureen Carey)
I am very pleased to announce that Jean Krogh will take on Parking Chair (from Mark Jones). Bob Solosko will take on Room Capacity Coordinator, a new position.

Treasurer's Report (Ralph Jones)
NEFFA's share of the finances is a bit on the low side. We've been anticipating this for several years. Nothing else new to report.

Nominating Committee Report (Shelagh Ellman-Pearl)
The Call for Nominations is going into the next NEFFA News. We continue to ask for suggestions. We'll present a slate to the board at the February meeting.

Mansfield Festival Issues

Electrical Matters (Maureen Carey)
On Thurs. afternoon, Nick and I met with Franny, who seems to be our contact Person, (Lincoln Lynch wants him to be their spokesperson). He is one of the custodians: he lives in Mansfield and knows a lot. Nick is going to be installing the panels in the two cafeterias: the crafts area in the High School (HS) and Food in the Middle School (MS). Ralph: Does he have the OK from the school? Dan: I was under the impression that Nick was going to talk to their electrician. Maureen: His name is Mike. I've been trying to get in touch with him for a couple of months. Mike may be our person at the Festival. Nick is working 2-week stints out of town. He'll be doing big jobs working 70 hour weeks. He may not be at the Festival. He will set things up with the school person. Nick has Mike's info so he can contact him directly. The set up in Mansfield is better than the one at Natick in terms of what's available. Nick was happy with the set-up; he can use almost all of the equipment that we already have. Some things may need to be repaired or altered, but he'll do that preliminary work. Julia Mitchell (Bob Leconti's assistant) thinks that Mike will work for us; she's been asking him to get in touch with us. Nick and I spent time figuring out how the cafeteria can be set up. It's very different than Natick. The way he managed at Natick was to run cables over the structure. We can't do that at Qualters; our stuff is too heavy. We came up with a plan of what to put where. Cables will go on the floor. There's a kind of platform that goes over the cables that Nick will build. Mike may already have these on hand. We're hoping to have an outdoor vendor or two as well. The Polish lady has an outdoor rig, so does Jay the chili guy. This is more of a campus; especially if have good weather, we'll have a larger scope for outside activities. Bob S.: A number of years ago we had an ice cream truck or something outside. There was an issue about running continuously, exhaust fumes etc. Would this be a problem? Maureen: I'm hoping we won't have anything loud and obnoxious.

Maureen: There was a question about the use of duct tape. The answer is NO duct tape. Gaffer's tape is the only thing that can be used. They have tons - there's a possibility they can help us. Ralph: Is that different from painter's tape? Dan: Gaffer's tape is stronger; it doesn't leave a residue. Is the anticipation that Nick will not be involved next year? Maureen: Yes - his intention is to set us up this year so we don't need him next year. Dan: The set up has got to be clear to the new electrician as well.

Program Issues (Linda Leslie)
The draft Participatory Dance program is set. In about a week we'll put FMS on the grid. We'll run conflict checks through Nov. and Dec., and do a performer mailing in January. The ballot mailing will go out by the end of March, maybe earlier. Bethany: If it can go out at the end of
February, (I won’t need to do a separate volunteer mailing).

Linda: The discussion about names of rooms is important today. Also, I’ve been thinking about splitting the grid in half and having the HS on one half and the Middle School on the other. I also need to figure out the Children’s Activity Room and rehearsal room space. I didn’t check rooms out thoroughly. Also, it will be useful to know where Instrument Check will be located. Michael also needs this information. I mentioned to Michael that it might be a good idea to have another walk-thru after the holidays, early in the year. Dan: We need an inventory of rooms and spaces, including space for coat racks, Hospitality etc.

Maureen: I discussed Instrument Check with Franny – he and I were discussing the library in Qualters as a possibility. It’s the closest room to the HS, there’s a door, staircase and elevator. It’s a huge big beautiful room. Does anybody have ideas? Linda: I can think of two negatives: it’s far from Performer Check-In; it’s far from Dance Performance space in the HS – nothing will be taking place in the middle school. Maureen: Does any place come to mind? Linda: What about The HS Library? It looks like a fairly big space. It’s accessible from both hallways. I got the impression from Laura that she didn’t like the MS Library. Steve: For insurance purposes, you can have only one door open. Linda: So the outdoor access from Qualters is not an advantage? (?): I think Laura was looking for a map to help decide these things.

Linda: On to room naming: I’m quite overwhelmed and think we should just go with “uninteresting” names this year. We have to be very careful with “Mansfield” and “Middle” we have to be careful about abbreviations and should probably leave the word “Mansfield” out. “High School Dance Hall”, “Middle School Dance Hall” etc. would be OK. (?): We could have one theme for the HS and one for the MS. Maureen: The school calls them “GMS” and “MHS” – this is on their signs. Linda: I’m not sure Mansfield and Qualters will have meaning for our group. Shelagh: Room Naming could be an Evaluations question. Linda: We should leave room naming in the hands of members, not general attendees. It would be a reward for members. For now, use “High School room number whatever” etc. Shelagh: We don’t need to decide the mechanism now. (?): Sign people may have another crop of signs when names are set. Dan: I’m assuming that we will also have some switching of rooms.

Michael: Can the program grids be divided to reflect the setup of the schools? Dan: We could key the columns to “call - outs” associated with spots on the map. Linda: Middle School on the left, High School on the Right. Michael: And room numbers for FMS. Linda: I’m advocating whole words: “High School Dance Hall” etc. (?): Michael will have to put these on signs. That’s a lot of words. Michael: I might color code the signs. Dan: Or you could have some kind of icon. (?): Are we duplicating room numbers? Maureen: Yes, one room, Rm. 103. (?): That would be a problem to me. (?): In the Middle school, there are double rooms: we could call that 103/104 “Room 104”. Linda: Or use the double number.

Dan: We may need more volunteers around with “Ask Me” badges. We could give them a walk-thru during set up. (?): Maybe just people who really need to know. (?): It would be hard to get people to Mansfield for an extra session. Bethany: The Flurry has a 6-hr. volunteer period, before that you have a 15 min. orientation. Dan: Are these are scheduled at times during the Festival? Bethany: I’m not sure how it works – maybe each chair handles it. Shelagh: There will be a lot of questions this year. Dan and I will probably be spending more time at the Hospitality Table this year to see what’s going on. Bob S.: Do we need a Hospitality Table in each school? Shelagh: We’ve thought about that. We need a primary one; maybe we could have some kind of an outpost - it would have to be pretty minor. Staffing two tables would be crazy. Bethany: We could have an FAQ board, maybe at the entrance. Linda: One place where questions will come up is the cafeteria. Dan: This may be a bonding experience; people will be asking each other for information, it may bring the crowd together. Shelagh: We might want to have people at the outpost at the beginning of sessions. Linda: A lot more of us should be willing to wear the “Ask Me” button. Dan: Could there be somebody at the booth at the MS who could serve double duty as an info source instead of having a dedicated table? It could be Performer Sales. (?): They’ll get questions anyway. Shelagh: The two tables can stay connected by phone. Maureen: We need to keep things balanced between buildings. We may have an imbalance if all the Festival (organizational) functions are in the HS. Many people will think the HS is the main place. Maybe Hospitality should be in the other building. Shelagh: The trouble is that people need to go to Hospitality as they’re coming in. People might go to the other tables instead of going to Hospitality. In terms of Safety, I think you need to send all your Safety volunteers to one place. Assigning Safety volunteers is a huge chore. It would be hard to have two full-service Hospitality tables running. (? ) I think that Tickets and Hospitality should go hand in hand. Maureen: We’ve thought about this year. (?): They weren’t close to each other at Natick. It might be useful to have printed info – an introduction to the Festival. Dan: A handout, a self-guided tour, something separate. Putting it in the Program Book would be a lot of info for people who don’t need it. (?): The Program Book is what you look at later when you have time. Maureen, Jean, and Dan will work on the “welcome Guide”.

Dan: I am confident in letting Linda choose names. She knows the issues and the infrastructure. For the web into, I’ll eventually need a list of rooms. Linda: I Can give you that right now:

The large rooms: 2 gyms and 2 auditorium stages.

HIGH SCHOOL: The Cafeteria will be the Crafts Room. It will be on the grid on the HS Side, (the Crafts Room is only

(Continued on page 8)
NEFFA is a non-profit organization run by volunteers. In addition to producing an annual Folk Festival, NEFFA runs a weekly contra dance, the Ralph Page Dance Legacy Weekend, and a series of family dances. NEFFA also supports various folk-related activities through its grants program.

Our traditions and bylaws encourage member participation in a number of ways. While, many of you are no doubt familiar with the role of volunteering at the Festival, you may also know that NEFFA’s goals of preserving folk traditions are actually overseen by an Executive Board, composed of elected and appointed members. Under NEFFA’s bylaws, elected Directors are expected to chair or serve as a member of a committee or to take on another responsibility.

Each year, the Nominating Committee prepares a ballot listing the nominees for the open positions for the Board and for Officers. We welcome all suggestions and volunteers from the NEFFA membership. Our bylaws also encourage direct nomination by members: the name of any eligible person suggested by twenty-five or more members is included on the ballot, if he or she consents.

Please send all suggestions and direct nominations to Nominating Committee Chair, Stephen A. Moore, by mail (3 Dennett Rd., Winchester, MA 01890) or by email (moore01890@comcast.net). The deadline for nominations is February 15, 2007. Feel free to contact any board member with an inquiry regarding the roles and responsibilities of the various positions.

The current Elected Board members are listed below. Those positions marked with a dot (·) are to be filled in the April election. Directors and Officers serve terms of two years and may be re-elected for one additional term (the Secretary and the Treasurer are always eligible for re-election). Members of the Nominating Committee serve for a single three-year term.

In recent years, Nominating Committees have recognized that NEFFA is a large organization with a geographically dispersed membership and that most members do not know each other or the candidates. Thus, there is little point to an actual contested election. In addition, the preference is to reward those who step forward and wish to become involved. Most ballots, therefore, have presented uncontested slates. We anticipate continuing this practice.

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<th>Name</th>
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The Nominating Committee: Shelagh Ellman-Pearl, Steve Moore, and Susan Freireich
on the grid because of demos.)

The HS stage will take over the function of the Small Hall. It will strictly be FMS and Dance Performance.

HS: 101, 103, and 125 (the Woodshop). 101 and 103 in the HS will probably take over the “Chorus” and “North Star” room functions, will probably not have sound, will probably have lots of chats. 101 and 103 are on the main hallway. As you face the Crafts Room, you turn left and go down the long hallway – the rooms are on the left. Room 125 is near the gym in the back of the building. Suzanne chose it because there will be little sound bleed. It will be the hardest room to find. It is handicapped accessible from the back – there’s a ramp.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL:** The Gym, the Stage, plus double rooms 103/104 and 105/106 for FMS. The rooms are across from each other. We will have only one door open for each double and juxtapose the doors diagonally. One of the double rooms in the MS will take the function of the Natick Room.

The Middle School stage will have Participatory Dance the whole time.

**Festival Committee Reports**

**Access (Shelagh Ellman-Pearl)**

One question I have for Jean: what about HP parking? Also I need to look around and see where there may be access issues in the building.

**Activity Room**

Maureen: Do we know what’s going to be in the Activity Room, or which room it is? Dan: Linda P. or Jenny needs to make a visit. Linda: The family stuff will be in one of The double rooms in the MS.

**Buses (Dan Pearl)**

I’m putting the bus contract out to bid again.

**Communications (Dan Pearl):** I’ll have to talk to Franny and see if there’s any part of the School infrastructure that we can use.

**Parking Report (Jean Krogh):** I’ll be in touch with Dayle about Signs; Mark Jones and I hope to look things over at Mansfield soon.

**Performer Sales (Nancy Hanssen):** We have a committee of six at the moment. We’re trying to get in touch with performers in advance to expedite the check-in process. I’ve talked to Dan about having a web site.

**Printed Materials (Linda Leslie):** Program Book will stay the same. We’ll have to think about how to fit the map on the back cover. The deadline is March 1 for inclusion in the Program Book. Shelagh: That should probably be posted on NEFFA Exec.

**Safety Report (Maureen Carey):** Alan Finkelstein is ready to make a trip out here from Ohio.

**Volunteer Report (Bethany Seeger):** Next time I’ll bring grids of what people said they need.