

WESTMENN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, November 24, 2018
Morris, Manitoba
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Present: Lawrence Klippenstein, John Giesbrecht, Jake Peters, Albert Falk, Peter Priess, Eleanor Chornoboy, Pamela Klassen Dueck, Andrew Brown, Sean Goerzen, Patrick Falk, Alex Tiessen, Graham Schellenberg, Eleanor Chornoboy

Regrets: Jake Peters, Jeremy Wiebe

1. Call meeting to order; Chair, Lawrence Klippenstein.
2. Review minutes of September 29, 2018 meeting
Motion: John Giesbrecht/Andrew Brown that the minutes be accepted.
Carried.
3. New members were introduced and welcomed to the committee. They were Alex Tiessen and Graham Schellenberg. Guest Patrick Falk was also welcomed.
4. Lawrence circulated a copy of Neuberghal Notes, prepared by Graham Schellenberg. Please see neuberghalheritagefoundation.com to read more.
5. Lawrence had attended the Rosenfeld book launch. Approximately 150 were attendance at the event and the book is going into a second printing.
6. EastMenn: A copy of Heritage Posting was circulated. The editor is Glen Klassen. For a mere \$5.00 per year as an MMHS member (any additional donations are welcome) members can receive copies online. Members are encouraged to submit articles from the West Reserve. The next issue is planned for March.
7. EastMenn will be erecting a cairn to commemorate Jacob Y.Schantz approximately where the Immigration sheds were set up near Niverville. It will be unveiled summer of 2019.
8. EastMenn is considering setting up tours. Lawrence has suggested that they might set aside a 6 square mile Mennonite park to get the Mennonite story complete. This would be in addition to the MHV and create an

awareness beyond Highway #12. He also wants the museum to acknowledge that 6 of the MHV historical buildings are from the West Reserve.

9. Albert Falk reported on the Atlas committee consisting of Pam Klassen Dueck, Sean Goerzen, Andrew Brown, Lawrence Klippenstein, Dave Harms as consultant, Peter Priess as editor, and Albert Falk as chair. Albert presented a roster of tasks that Pam had prepared including, but not limited to determining the scope, footnotes, sources; get funding advice and sources; list of proposals for funding; and software considerations. Jake Rempel will be a helpful resource and the late Peter E. Hildebrand's book collection may be available to the committee. This may be a 3-5 year project.

10. Eleanor reported on her work as a volunteer at the Mennonite Heritage Archives and encouraged others to volunteer their time and expertise.

11. Pam reported on her projects

- a) Piecing together an extended family tree for Peter Knelsen and Maria Reimer - my great-grandparents - through DNA, the family Bible, and Rundschau letters.
- b) Jewish connections of my paternal grandmother.
- c) Manitoba Sommerfelder involvement in the 1948 immigration to Paraguay.
- d) Heuboden (Grimsby School District):
- e) making a map
I've updated the cemetery list at Find a Grave
- f) figuring out where exactly the old private school was (pre-consolidation)
- g) why my grandma's Grimsby school photo does not look like Grimsby DNA:
testing my parents
investigating who Michael Romanov is (a 3rd-cousin DNA match)- his father was dropped off at a Kazakhstan orphanage during WWII

12. Albert reported on his Schönwiese project which was inspired by Adolf Ens and his Neuhoffnung project, much of which is informed by a book written by his late uncle in the 60s and early 70s. Albert will work on the project and add photos.

13. Graham Schellenberg reported that he is getting information from Altbegthal people to.

14. Sean Goerzen is working with the Holdemann community to create a Grandma –like project exclusively for Holdemann. He is also planning to write a Goerzen book with his father and collaborate with relatives from Germany.

15. Eleanor gave a short update on plans of the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada. Minutes will be posted on the MHSC site.

16. Setting goals for the year ahead:

- Research WestMenn cemeteries

- Prepare contribution of WestMenn history for Fort Dufferin

- Work on village histories

- Plan a workshop

17. Meeting adjourned

18. Next meeting

Saturday, January 26, 2019

Morris, Manitoba