

# WESTMENN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, January 26, 2019  
Morris, Manitoba  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Present: Lawrence Klippenstein, Albert Falk, Peter Priess, Eleanor Chornoboy, Pamela Klassen Dueck, Graham Schellenberg, George Wall (guest)  
Regrets: John Giesbrecht, Jake Peters, Andrew Brown, Sean Goerzen, Alex Tiessen

1. Call meeting to order by Chair, Lawrence Klippenstein.
2. Review of November 24, 2018 meeting minutes
3. Motion: Albert Falk/Pam Klassen Dueck that the minutes be accepted. Carried.
4. Agenda was reviewed and accepted.
5. Lawrence welcomed our guest, George Wall who has voiced interest in working with the Atlas committee.
6. Lawrence indicated that Graham Schellenberg is also interested in the Atlas committee work.
7. In Memoriam: Lawrence told the meeting about the passing of Dr. Jacob P. Siemens who lived in Steinbach and had been a teacher in Altberghal. Lawrence has an article about Dr. Siemens in the next publication of Heritage Posting. Both Albert and Peter were able to make connections with Dr. Siemens.
8. West Reserve Atlas Committee report: Albert Falk  
Andrew Brown and Sean Goerzen have prepared a comprehensive Table of Contents which was circulated. The committee is still researching the most appropriate software to use for the project. The committee is looking for village histories and family histories.  
Lawrence indicated that the committee might work with Harold Dyck who has been working on matching locations with GPS. To date Harold has not been able to find Spannau and Neustadt which evidently was close to Halbstadt.  
The question arose whether Scratching River was included in the EastMenn or WestMenn atlases and it appears that Scratching River is separate from these two projects. That explains why there is only one Rosenort (Rosetown) in the WestMenn atlas table of contents.

## 9. Village History Proposal

Lawrence explained that there were several parts to the research on Altbergthal/New Hope, including:

- A booklet edited by Adolf Ens has been written in the past with a section focused on Altbergthal
- Collections of photos held by Martha Martens of Winkler, Alvin Wiebe, and Pam Klassen Dueck
- Susie Fisher and Martha Martens are working on a small museum related to the Altbergthal school no situated in Neubergthal
- Graham Schellenberg's proposal to write a history of Altbergthal which may take the form of an edited work of essays, complete with the Indigenous history

A discussion followed as to how to proceed with the proposal. George Wall advised that the committee be supportive of the work that has been proposed. Eleanor Chornoboy agreed with George, suggesting that the individuals working on the project should be left to their own wisdom and enthusiasm to bring the project to fruition.

Motion: Eleanor Chornoboy/Peter Priess that the individuals working on the Altbergthal/New Hope projects determine how they might work independently yet collaboratively to create a final product that is cogent and reflective of the Altbergthal/New Hope history. Carried.

10.2019 budget (please see below)

11.Update on MMHS: Eleanor Chornoboy and Peter Priess

- The MMHS AGM is scheduled for March 16, 2019 from 10:00 – 12:00 at the Mennonite Heritage Village in Steinbach
- Preservings is accepting articles from writers
- Plett Foundation Essay Contest is being re-imagined
- Budget discussion

12.Discussion on a genealogy workshop began with the possibility of collaborating with the Altona History Seekers, but no decisions were made.

13. New publications were noted for attention.

14.P. Priess offered an original German B.H Unruh genealogy study in mint condition for sale. An English translation of Part II is now available at MHA (displayed at the meeting).

Can mention in the opening that the meeting ran from 10.00 - 12.30. Thanks especially also for getting the budget release to Bert. Looks fine to me also.

15.Meeting adjourned at 12:30.

16.Next meeting was tentatively set for April 6, but because of Albert's previous commitments, we will aim to have our next meeting on

**Saturday, April 13, 2019**  
**Roadhouse in Morris**  
**10:00 – 12:00**

Subsequent to the meeting Lawrence has advised that Graham Schellenberg offered to chair the new subcommittee for creating the book on Altbergthal, New Hope and Rudnerweide. The steering committee includes Graham, Pam, Martha, Albert and Lawrence, with Graham chairing. It is anticipated that the committee will meet to look at the potentially larger picture to create a skeletal strategy for the project.