

Minutes of the Board Meeting
Mennonite Historical Society of Canada

Friday, January 16, 2015, 7:00 p.m.
Community Education Room
Conrad Grebel University College,
Waterloo, Ontario

Present:

Richard Thiessen, Treasurer, Mennonite Historical Society of British Columbia
Don Fehr, Mennonite Historical Society of British Columbia
Barb Draper, Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario
David Neufeldt, Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta
Maurice Martin, Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario
Wes Berg, Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta
Jon Isaak, Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches
Jeremy Wiebe, youth representative, Mennonite Church Eastern Canada
Jake Buhler, Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan
Andrea Dyck, guest
Barry Dyck, Mennonite Heritage Village (Steinbach, Manitoba)
Conrad Stoesz, Mennonite Church Canada
Richard Lougheed, Société d'histoire mennonite du Québec
Zacharie Leclair, youth representative, Société d'histoire mennonite du Québec
Laureen Harder-Gissing, Mennonite Church Eastern Canada
Bert Friesen, Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society
Lucille Marr, President, Société d'histoire mennonite du Québec
Royden Loewen, Vice President, Chair of Mennonite Studies, University of Winnipeg
Alf Redekopp, Secretary, Mennonite Church Canada

1. **Welcome:** Lucille Marr called the meeting to order and offered a prayer. She then asked Royden Loewen, vice president, to chair the meeting. All were welcomed and a sheet was passed around for everyone to give their name, agency, telephone number and e-mail address.
2. **Minutes** of the board minutes of 17 January 2014 were reviewed by Alf. **M/S/C (Alf Redekopp/ Conrad Stoesz).**
3. **Business Arising**
 - a. MHSC Website: No updating of the look has happened in 2014. Site looks the same.
 - b. Ratification of Committees: **M/S/C (Alf Redekopp /Wes Berg)** that the following persons be on these committees:
 - i. Canadian GAMEO editorial committee: Bert Friesen (chair), Don Fehr, Wes Berg, Victor Wiebe, Alf Redekopp, Linda Huebert Hecht, Richard Lougheed, Richard Thiessen (managing editor), Sam Steiner (associate managing editor)
 - ii. Archives Committee: Conrad Stoesz, Richard Thiessen, Dave Neufeldt, Jake Buhler, Laureen Harder-Gissing, Jon Isaak, Richard Lougheed
 - iii. Mennonite Archival Image Database Management (MAID) group: Conrad Stoesz, Corey Dyck, Alf Redekopp, Laureen Harder-Gissing
 - iv. DVCM committee: Royden Loewen (chair), Marlene Epp, Lucille Marr, Pam Peters-Pries, Leonard Doell, Ken Reddig
 - v. Genealogy (task force): Bert Friesen, Sam Steiner, Cary Sweet

4. **Review of AGM agenda:** Motion to approve. **M/S/C (Maurice Martin /Jake Buhler).**

5. **Dissolution of the corporation**

Background

On 24 January 2009 the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada, Incorporated, passed a motion to begin proceedings to transfer the operations of the Society to an unincorporated entity of the same name. The Mennonite Historical Society of Canada approved a new constitution and by-laws on 19 January 2013. The Charities Directorate has been notified of the above actions by the Society, and is awaiting documentation verifying that the Society has surrendered its charter.

With this motion the Society agrees to surrender the charter of the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada, Incorporated. Any assets held by the Corporation will be transferred to the unincorporated Mennonite Historical Society of Canada. Any debts, liabilities, or obligations in the name of the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada, Inc. have been provided for.

The Mennonite Historical Society of Canada acknowledges that no public or private interest will be prejudicially affected by surrendering its charter.

A noticed will be published in the Canada Gazette indicating that the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada, Inc. will be applying to the Minister of Industry for leave to surrender its charter pursuant to subsection 32(1) of the *Canada Corporations Act*.

MOTION: That the board recommends to the membership at the AGM to dissolve Mennonite Historical Society of Canada Incorporated. **M/S/C (Richard Thiessen /Barry Dyck).**

6. **MHSC Award of Excellence:** The executive recommended that Sam Steiner be awarded the 2015 MHSC Award of Excellence. **M/S/C (Barb Draper/Conrad Stoesz).**

7. **Divergent Voices of Canadian Mennonites (DVCM) update:**

- a. A conference on Mennonites, Land & the Environment will be planned for 2016 and hosted by the Chair in Mennonite Studies, University of Winnipeg.
- b. Royden reported t that the task force mandated by the 2014 AGM to explore the changing faces of Mennonites in Canada 1970-2000, had held a profitable discussion by teleconference. There is interest in marking the MHSC's 50th anniversary by hosting a 2018 conference on Mennonite Newcomers in Canada.

M/S/C (Conrad Stoesz/Wes Berg) that DVCM and the task force work together on the project which we currently will refer to as the “Mennonite Newcomers in Canada Project”. It will be done with the 50th anniversary of MHSC in mind as well as the theme of “Mennonites in Canada” since 1970.

8. **GAMEO Management and Canadian Editorial Group:** Bert Friesen will report at the AGM.

9. **Archives Committee Update:** Conrad Stoesz reported that the archives committee had reviewed and approved the work of the Photo Database Taskorce, and were looking forward to a website launch in the near future. It was also reported that the Photo Database Taskorce will become the managing group for the project for the coming year.

10. **Genealogy committee:** Bert will report at the AGM

11. **New Projects:**

- a. Traveling Mennonite Exhibit: Jake Buhler reported that the idea which he proposed last year would not be pursued currently, in part, because next year Saskatchewan will be hosting the traveling exhibit by Ray Dirks, entitled “Along the Road to Freedom”.
- b. Founding Leaders of MHSC video project: No formal activity has occurred in 2014. Royden reported on a recent, personally encouraging, phone call from former MHSC president, Ted Friesen of Altona, Manitoba. It was agreed that Royden convey greetings from the board to Ted. Lucille strongly suggested that someone should interview Ted soon. Conrad agreed to pursue this suggestion.

12. Financial Report: Richard Thiessen presented his financial report.

13. Nominations report: Richard Lougheed reported that 4 of the current officers had agreed to let their names stand. A response from another nominee is pending before the AGM.

Adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Recorded by Alf Redekopp