

**MENNONITE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA**  
**Minutes of Board Meeting**  
**Conrad Grebel University College, Waterloo, Ontario**  
**January 17, 2025**

Present: 22

Aileen Friesen, University of Winnipeg  
Alf Redekopp, Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario  
Andrew Klassen Brown, Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society & MCC  
Ben Nobbs-Thiessen, Chair of Mennonite Studies, University of Winnipeg  
Brian Froese, Canadian Mennonite University  
Bruce Guenther (by Zoom), Mennonite Historical Society of Canada exec member  
Carina Gallardo, Centre for MB Studies  
Conrad Stoesz, Mennonite Church Canada  
Dave Neufeldt, Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta  
David G. Neufeld, Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario  
Graeme Unrau, Mennonite Heritage Archives & MC Canada  
Graham Schellenberg, Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society  
Jake Buhler, Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan  
Jeremy Wiebe, Mennonite Historical Society of Canada, treasurer  
John Redekopp, Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan  
Katie Harder, Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta  
Laureen Harder-Gissing, Mennonite Church Eastern Canada  
Linda Klassen, Mennonite Historical Society of Canada secretary  
Lucille Marr, Société d'histoire mennonite du Québec  
Richard Thiessen, Mennonite Heritage Museum  
Robert Goertzen (by Zoom), Mennonite Heritage Village  
Sara Dyck, Mennonite Heritage Archives

- 1. Opening** – Conrad opened the meeting at 4:10 pm.
- 2. Approval of agenda. Motion to accept the agenda:** Conrad S: Carina **CARRIED**
- 3. Minutes** – Linda reviewed the minutes and moved their acceptance. S: Richard, **CARRIED**
- 4. Business arising** – There was no new business.
- 5. Approval of committee Roster:**
  - a. 1922 Migration Commemoration Committee: Jeremy Wiebe (co-chair), Andrea Klassen (co-chair), Dick Braun, Leonard Doell, Aileen Friesen, Conrad Stoesz.
  - b. A People of Diversity Committee (book project): Ben Nobbs-Thiessen (chair), Jeremy Wiebe, Laureen Harder-Gissing, Brian Froese, Lucille Marr, Conrad Stoesz, Bruce Guenther.

c. Archives Committee: Laureen Harder-Gissing (chair) MHSO, Conrad Stoesz, MHA, Carina Gallardo, CMBS, Jake Buhler, MHSS Dave Neufeldt, MHSA, Linda Klassen, MHSBC.

d. Divergent Voices of Canadian Mennonites: Ben Nobbs-Thiessen (chair) Brian Froese, Lucille Marr, Leonard Doell, Laureen Harder-Gissing, Jeremy Wiebe, Bruce Guenther, Ruth Plett.

e. MAID Management Committee: Conrad Stoesz (chair) Laureen Harder-Gissing, Alf Redekopp, Hannah Keeney, John Thiesen.

f. MHSC GAMEO Committee: Laureen Harder-Gissing (chair), Bert Friesen, Richard Thiessen (rep for the Gameo meeting in spring), Aileen Friesen, Alf Redekopp,

g. Russlaender Documentary Committee: Aileen Friesen, Conrad Stoesz, Richard Thiessen, Jeremy Wiebe, David Y. Neufeld (Ontario).

h. Website Committee: Andrew Klassen Brown (chair), Jeremy Wiebe.

j. Unnamed "Diversity" Committee: Aileen Friesen, Brian Froese, Jeremy Wiebe, David Y. Neufeld. Bruce Gunther

**Motion to accept committee rosters: Alf, S: Laureen CARRIED**

**6. MHSC Award of Excellence** – This year we have two nominations for the award of excellence. Conrad read the citations for each candidate.

**Motion to accept the nomination of Linda Huebert Hecht – Conrad, S: Laureen CARRIED**

**Motion to accept the nomination of Fred Lichti – Conrad S: David Y. Neufeld CARRIED**

**7. Committee and members are invited to bring items where a decision and/or extra discussion would be beneficial to the board.**

A) Andrew Klassen-Brown presented an opportunity to commemorate Atlantic Park in Southampton England where Mennonite immigrants were detained for health reasons in the 1920's. There are 19 unmarked graves nearby of Mennonites who died there, mostly infants and children. Lee Desty, a retired BBC editor, is researching Mennonites and Jews who came through Atlantic Park. He would like to provide interpretation signage acknowledging these graves. No funding would be required from MHSC, only their endorsement and assistance. These names would then be included in GRandMA and in *Find a Grave*.

This has not been formally discussed with MMHS. Ed Krahn is willing to be on a committee. He will be at the AGM tomorrow and can answer questions.

Richard has already been in touch with Lee and provided diaries. Other discussion centered around the desire to have the proposal endorsed by a society before committing. We don't generally accept proposals from individuals outside the board. How does that affect protocol?

We would like to know more about the purpose of the project. Is it to remember Mennonites? Will it remind Britain that we were there? Are we commemorating souls?

There will be further discussion at the AGM tomorrow. The recommendation is that MMHS should bring the proposal to the board. We need a board member on the committee; we can't have committees without MHSC members.

**8. Financial review** Jeremy highlighted a few points on the statements and pointed out that three lines: MAID Transfers to partners, Genealogy website & Gameo support should move up one line.

**9. Nominating Committee Report** Richard reported that all current executive members have agreed to let their names stand for the following year. Jon Isaac is no longer part of the Board. We will need to nominate someone to work with Richard on this committee.

**10. MHSC meeting Schedule** – we will continue following the established “pendulum model” with Winnipeg in the middle and hosting every other year. This helps to keep costs down. Our 2026 meeting will be in Winnipeg and BC will host in 2027.

**11. Other** – A couple of points about the AGM: Please begin your report by telling the group who I am, who I represent, etc. This helps to orient newcomers as to who we are and to understand how things work.

There is no need to read your full report. We will follow last year's format of sharing two accomplishments and two challenges.

Adjournment M- Brian, S: Aileen.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted  
By Linda Klassen