

**SWISS (VOLHYNIAN) MENNONITE CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION MEETING
MINUTES**

Thursday, May 6, 2004, 4:00 pm
Goering Activity Center

Present: Arnold Wedel, Chair, Ben Stucky, Jim Goering, Gary Stucky, Roger Juhnke, Lowell Goering, Wayne Stucky, Scott Waltner, Waneta Goering
Absent: LaVera Schrag, Jay Goering

Call to Order: Arnold Wedel, Chair, called the meeting to order.

MINUTES OF MARCH 25, 2004 MEETING

The minutes of the March 25, 2004 meeting were reviewed.

MOTION: It was moved by Ben Stucky and seconded by Lowell Goering to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

In Treasurer Jay Goering's absence, Waneta Goering, Secretary read the treasurer's report as follows:

SMCHA Checking Account Beginning Balance 03/23/04		\$ 501.09
Income: Membership dues and Dividends	\$ 15.18	
Expenses: Electricity, Website hosting, printing	\$273.57	
SMCHA Checking Account Ending Balance 05/05/04		\$ 243.55
Cemetery Endowment Fund Balance		\$15,094.25
Interest Income	\$ 26.34	
Swiss Cemetery Building Fund Balance		\$ 92.95
Dividends	\$ 1.22	
Swiss Money Market Account Balance		\$ 7,227.46
Dividends	\$ 15.04	

MOTION: It was moved by Jim Goering and seconded by Ben Stucky to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

ONLY SCHWEITZER SPOKEN HERE

The Chair announced May 7, 2004 as the next meeting of *Only Schweitzer Spoken Here*, Goering Activity Center, 2:00-3:00 pm. Refreshments provided.

SCHWEITZER SALT

The Chair discussed with Donna Neufeld the report that not all SMCHA members were receiving *Schweitzer Salt* due to the fact that not all attend Schweitzer speaking churches. Arnold will continue to work with Donna on getting it to all members of SMCHA.

SMCHA WEBSITE

Jim Goering announced that the Swiss Tour is now on the website. He reported that there has been some difficulty in getting information for feature articles for the website and stated that

Jeff Koller has compiled a book of CPS/alternative service stories of Eden Mennonite members and suggested that some of these stories can be featured on the website. Jeff Koller has agreed to let him use these stories. Someone inquired about J. O. Schrag's compilation of nicknames and Jim stated it is available through the SMCHA Store on the website. To date there have been 3,494 hits to the website.

FALL FESTIVAL

In the absence of LaVera Schrag, Gary Stucky reported that Clinton Kaufman has agreed to make a presentation at Fall Festival 2004 for SMCHA. He reported trying to find a copy of the video from the 2001 program. It was reported that Maynard Krehbiel has one. Two individuals from Pretty Prairie have agreed to also help out with the program. A 1990 video tape will be used as a backup. As yet they do not have an emcee.

FISCAL YEAR NOW CALENDAR YEAR

Since no one listed conflicts for March 13, 2005, this will be the scheduled date for the 2004 SMCHA Annual Meeting.

CEMETERY ENDOWMENT FUND

Scott Waltner suggested that monies above \$10,000 originally gifted as endowment be used for restoring graves. Plans are to have Von Peterson do some of the work this summer using money market and endowment monies. At the east end of the cemetery badgers have damaged some of the graves. There was some discussion about the priority that needs to be given to restoration of the graves. Jim Goering felt we need to give priority to those families who have given monies toward the restoration of their family members' graves. Gary Stucky suggested that we state at the spring banquet that we encourage families to contribute toward the cemetery fund if they want graves restored.

Jim Goering felt it is necessary to clarify the grave restoration policy. Arnold Wedel will provide a list of those graves that Von Peterson restored at a cost of \$1,000 and a list of those individuals who have donated toward the grave restoration. There is not enough money in the fund to restore all of the graves so it was suggested a priority list be compiled. Jay Goering and Von Peterson will be consulted to determine which ones he restored and suggested for the future that Peterson itemize which graves he restores.

TRUSTEE REPORT – Ben Stucky

It was reported that there is bindweed around the marker that needs to be sprayed, badger holes need to be closed, installation of posts needs to be completed, and some burning of brush will need to be done. It was suggested that a workday be scheduled to do this. Arnold Wedel and Scott Waltner both reported that the marker lights were not on the last couple of times they observed the marker and were wondering if the timer is not working. The understanding was that Hopefield was to be responsible for the first five years and then SMCHA after that. Lowell Goering suggested an electric eye be installed on it. Arnold Wedel stated there is some history connected with how long the light would burn per day.

MOTION: Gary Stucky moved and Jim Goering seconded a motion to consult Ray Stucky about what would be necessary to install a new timer, setting it to go on at dusk and off at midnight. Motion carried.

BY-LAWS REPORT – Gary Stucky

Gary Stucky thanked Don Schrag and LaDeen Frey for their help on the document. He asked board members to review these by-laws and e-mail him changes. The by-laws committee will review the changes suggested. Gary suggested that an announcement be made at the spring banquet that the by-laws are under revision and are on the website for review.

MOTION: It was moved by Jim Goering and seconded by Wayne Stucky to commend the By-Laws Committee for their work on the by-laws. Motion carried.

GOAL SETTING MEETING

There was discussion about what we want to achieve as an organization. Jim Goering suggested the goal setting meeting set for May 15 be changed to Tuesday, June 15, 7:00-9:30 pm. Someone would be secured to facilitate the meeting and it would be held at Jim Goering's home at 301 Bluestem Street, North Newton.

SPRING BANQUET

Reservation deadline is May 28 for the banquet.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is September 16, 2004, 4:00 pm in the Goering Activity Center at Memorial Home, North Conference Room.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Waneta Goering, Secretary