

CLARESHOLM AND DISTRICT MUSEUM BOARD MEETING

Claresholm Town Office

August 20, 2025

Present: Tom Carey, Mich Forster, Barry Gibbs, Betty Hoare, David Knox, Marg Lane, Kandice Meister, Val Ritzen, Jordyn Wallace, Cynthia Wannamaker, and Jennifer Place

Meeting called to order at 3:00 P.M. Barry Gibbs.

1. Agenda: Moved to adopt amended agenda by Mich Forster. **Carried.**
2. Correspondence/ minutes: No correspondence to report. Motion made by Tom Carey to approve the amended minutes dated July 15, 2025. **Carried.**
3. Chair Report
 - A huge surprise for our fundraising on the new building. Barry Gibbs talked to both Charleen Davidson, Executive Director and Caitlin Gajdostik, Grants Co-ordinator for Community Foundation of Lethbridge, and South West Alberta. They were approached by an anonymous donor who is willing to match any donation (from individuals only – not business, grants, service clubs etc.) up to \$50,000 for the new building. Donations have to be made by December 31, 2025, to be eligible. This effectively cuts our Phase 1 fundraising goal of \$100,000 in half!!!
4. Financial Report
 - Report dated Aug. 20, 2025, gift shop sales will be adjusted down once the vendors, and the Town of Claresholm have been reimbursed for money owing on their sales items.
 - Jordyn advised that she received approval for renting a fourth storage unit. This is necessary to move artifacts currently stored in Mackin Hall. Kandice Meister made a motion of acceptance of the report. **Carried.**
5. Executive Director
 - Friday night at the museum during annual Claresholm Fair Days was a huge success. Total attendance for the weekend was 207 people at the Station and 392 at the Exhibit Hall. Lots of positive comments on going back to the Tea on the Lawn format. Attendance from May 15 to mid August was 2,454 at the Station and 2,515 at the Exhibit Hall. Bus Tours were 17 for the same period and 4 more are booked.
 - Attendance to the The Famous Five exhibit located in the CPR Station, was 954. The exhibit has been packed up and on its way to the next destination.
 - The museum was recently approached by TNC Publishing, a Calgary-based company, with a proposal to collaborate on the creation of a magazine to be used for marketing purposes featuring content and photos provided by the museum. This partnership will come at no cost to the museum, as TNC covers production expenses by selling advertising space to local businesses.
 - Rae Trimble meeting on August 19, 2025, between Rae her two daughters, Barry Gibbs, Jordyn Wallace, and Betty Hoare went well. Rae has a number of artifacts and archival materials she has researched on this area. Some of those items are on

a related pioneer family from the Starline area. Rae's family also mentioned that her mother would like to make a generous donation towards the new building. Discussed photo op to take place at the time of donation.

6. By-law amendments

- Jennifer Place read some of the proposed by-law changes that will be discussed in town council. She wanted to make the board aware of the changes.

7. Events Planning

– Harvest Festival is on track to take place September 13, 2025, from noon to 7 PM. Games will run from 12 to 4 as well as a bake sale in the Station. Some tractors will be on display on the grounds. There will not be a registration fee but there will be a prize for people's choice. A dinner of chili & cornbread from 4–7 PM alongside entertainment in the Social Centre. A fundraising table with information and donation tracking sheets will be setup on the Station veranda.

8. Board to Board meeting

– A date of September 3, 2025, was set for a meeting with the board of the Friends of the Claresholm Museum. Things to discuss are co-ordinating all fund-raising items between boards and also the High School Rodeo Finals that will be coming to Claresholm for the next 2 and possibly 3 years. How can the museum benefit from the influx of guests to Claresholm.

9. Motion made by Val Ritzen to receive all reports. **CARRIED.**

David Knox moved for adjournment at 4:50 PM. **CARRIED.**

Next meeting September 17, 2025.



Board Chair

Barry Gibbs