

## Minutes of the Adirondack Coast Cultural Alliance Meeting, August 10, 2017



President Ellen Adams called the meeting to order at 8:38 am, Thursday, August 10, 2017, at the Kent Delord House Museum in Plattsburgh. Thank you to Don for hospitality!

**Present:** Ellen Adams (ATM, pres.), Karen Batchelder (CEFLS), Barb Benkwitt (Schuyler Falls Town), Julie Dowd (CCHA & NNYACGS/Genealogy), Helen Nerska (CCHA), Celine Paquette (Samuel D. Champlain History Center), Melissa Peck (coordinator, MLPBS), Don Wickman (KDM House Museum), Alina Walentowicz (Chamber & Visitor Bureau).

The **minutes** of the July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting were distributed and approved without changes; Celine moved and Don seconded.

Alina presented the **financial report**. We have received the \$1500 grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Program; the remaining \$500 will be invoiced for receipt in January. Expense to KDHM for Museum Days copying was paid. Our balance is \$2546.

Melissa's **coordinator report** included Museum Days info. The current attendance total is 1600 for 2017 (while still missing data on 6 venues). In 2016 attendances was reported at 1439 (missing 3 sites). Usually complete figures are received by September. Complete numbers for all sites were 2193 in 2015, and 2743 in 2014 (the first year of two days). So for this year we did well, especially moving our date to coincide with Path Thru History weekend. Re 2018 'dues' – the plan is on track for Melissa to send out requests for dues in August, seeking return to ACCA via the Adirondack Coast Visitors' Bureau by November, \$75 for organizations, \$25 for individuals/historians. Re Battle of Plattsburgh commemoration September 7-10, 2017 – Stan and Chris Ransom have been named Grand Marshalls of the parade! They have a long history of organizing the kids activities for the event, and Stan has been a part of ACCA as well as a past secretary. Our interim summary report as a deliverable to LCBP for the coordinator grant is due October 1. Melissa prepares and submits a summary of all ACCA meetings year to date. The International summit will be in Lake George October 23, with a field trip October 22. The annual joint meeting of HAPAC of LCBP is November 13 – rain date November 20 – at Shelburne, VT Town offices. Ellen or Melissa will attend for ACCA. Job openings – AARCH is looking for a new educational programs director, as the previous directory has moved into a new position within AARCH. Grants – the Pomeroy Foundation deadline is October 2 for historic roadside markers. Decentralization grants workshops are being held by Kathy Recchia in various locations around the area for arts activities. Note that if you apply for a Dec grant you can't apply for other NYSCA grants. Technical Assistance Program grants/consultation grants from the Preservation League of NYS – are due September 11 for Fall ([www.preservenys.org](http://www.preservenys.org)). These are also available in the Spring.

### **Battle of Plattsburgh Commemoration and Macdonough Monument opening –**

This year the Monument will be open Saturday, 10a-4p, under the auspices of Clinton County Historical Association. There will be no Race to the Eagle. Please contact CCHA if you'd like to volunteer to help at the monument. ACCA coloring books will be at the monument. The Battle of Plattsburgh needs more volunteers for all activities. The BOP commemoration is a

huge undertaking, and through the 200<sup>th</sup> in 2014, it was a huge volunteer undertaking before the city took it over. Similarly for the Mayor's Cup in July, again now also being coordinated by the city. Due to the financial situation of the city and the consolidation of city departments there is question about who will spearhead these events going forward, which are currently under the events coordinator position in the city filled full-time, wonderfully and enthusiastically, by Sandra Geddes. Her position apparently is under review for downsizing to half-time or elimination. Those present expressed concern about the future of these events that are big money-makers and publicity for the city and the area. Alina remarked that the Chamber is keeping close watch on the future for these important events in the area.

Discussion continued about this year's Battle of Plattsburgh. Sunday's events are still planned to be held at the Oval and the Museum Campus, though only CCHA is has so far confirmed being open. Other Museum Campus sites should also be open Sunday if activities are now more on the Oval rather than downtown. Don of KDLHM indicated that he will be open. More volunteers are needed (Melissa and Ellen volunteered). Helen Nerska spoke about a scavenger hunt to get the people from the Oval to visit all museums nearby. Sunday starting at 7am until 10 am a Rooster Relay will start at the Monument base to do loops during the 3 hr time, coordinated by Kinetic Running. Pins for BOP will be \$15 again this year, with minimal freebies. There is no Israel Green Tavern. The parade theme is 'Adirondack Coast - Crossroads of Culture' – any participants? BOP posters are still in process – Don is suggesting to Sandra Geddes that she get the posters to CEFLS for distribution via the libraries.

Melissa questioned if anyone was following the Facebook postings of the story of the couple who met during BOP – that's included on the city's Facebook account and started at the end of July. Catch up with Melissa for more info.

**Path Thru History Weekend – October 7-9 – on Columbus Day weekend.** Ellen mentioned that there is state-wide publicity for this weekend. If anyone is doing special events during that time please be sure to contact Alina Walentowicz at the Visitors' Bureau so she can ensure our events on the ILoveNY website. Path Thru History uses the ILoveNY database to spotlight events. Alina also spoke about our specific area being the Lake Champlain region which is close to but not in the Adirondack Park. She has attended media events for ILoveNY held in the Spring for summer events, and so on as a way for bloggers and other media presence to connect with our region. This is a way for the history community as a group to have a mention in the wider world through writers and bloggers and other visitors who then share their experiences to encourage folks to visit us here. The Adirondack Coast Visitors' Bureau has a budget line item to fund some of the tours to bring people here who can reach larger groups of people. The Packaging Nights – whereby a visitor could pick a tour online and pay one price to get, for example – the Alice, then dinner – is another way to encourage visitors.

**Women's Suffrage** – Helen Nerska is working on 3 articles for Carolyn Kehne's publications. SUNY Plattsburgh in the Fall will be picking up some events and interest. On October 16, Sally Roesch Wagner (founder of the Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation in Fayetteville, NY) will be speaking in Plattsburgh, specific site at SUNY to be determined. Helen has also been giving

presentations regarding the Clinton County suffrage story. The CCHA exhibit will be opened in November. On November 2 or 3, 5-7 pm – the Great American Women’s Trivia Challenge will be held at Post#20 co-hosted by CCHA with the League of Women Voters.

**Fort Ticonderoga’s** \$65M fundraising effort has been announced to establish a Revolutionary War museum, which likely could include the Spitfire? Art Cohn of the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum had also announced raising the Spitfire, looking for \$48M. Melissa posed the question as to if these funds are the same dollars?? The National Museum for the Revolutionary War is now open in Philadelphia; Don mentioned that Craig Russell had recently visited there.

### **Museum Reports –**

Alice T. Miner Museum – Many visitors are coming from out of town to the Alice. On August 17 at 6 pm there will be an outside concert (hopefully) with Speedy Arnold, Alice Knight, and Mike Croghan. Alice Miner’s birthday will be celebrated on September 23 from 1-3 pm, with historic games from the 1860’s, crafts and treats. On October 12 at 7 pm Niki Kourofsky will speak on her book on Adirondack Outlaws.[Ellen]

Chamber of Commerce/Visitors’ Bureau – The next Packaging Party will be November 2. October 12 – seminars will be held on branding, digital marketing, affordable ideas/tips for small businesses. Their newsletter has more detail. Melissa suggested providing tips on how to use the data/metrics of social media views. [Alina]

Clinton County Historical Association/Museum – It’s been a busy summer with lots of out of town visitors, from all areas, not just Canada. There are a lot of events coming up in the Fall. The museum had an offer of 2-3 rows of original seats from the Strand. Unfortunately they have to decline. Is anyone else interested? [Helen]

Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System (CEFLS) – A great way to distribute posters and information around the county to the library system. [Karen]

Hearts’ Delight/ Miner Farm – Don mentioned that Seven Days had articles on the Miner hydroprojects/dams designed/built by Mr. Miner. Julie mentioned the Altona dam is really unbelievable. There are some exhibits about the dams at Hearts’ Delight. [Don]

Kent-Delord House Museum – James Monroe toured and visited Judge Delord the end of July 1817, so Don is now able to place a sign in the museum window stating ‘James Monroe was here’, and is linked to the website of his house in Charlottesville. The historic review of the ramp was completed and approved; the ramp will be done by Battle of Plattsburgh and the fence soon. Also, some clapboards can be replaced and the exterior painting can be done. Already a window has been replaced, 3 box elders were taken down, and has applied for other grants for shutter replacement. Don has been speaking at a few venues on Lake Champlain through the years, and released a publication on Mount Independence on July 29. The Battle

of Plattsburgh especially September 9-10 will be busy. Summer visitors are from all over. [Don]

Mountain Lakes PBS – Melissa mentioned that the station is getting calls there from people who have seen the Adirondack Coast ads and seek more information. [Melissa]

Northern NY A-C Genealogical Society and Library – The Society's annual conference will be on September 30<sup>th</sup> at the Dannemora Village Center, including speakers and book sales [Julie]

Samuel D. Champlain History Center – Our book on Franco-Americans in the Champlain Valley will be coming out in December. There is an opening for a part-time employee at the history center in Champlain. [Celine]

Meeting adjourned 9:31am.

**NEXT MEETING –**

**Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 8:30am – Chamber of Commerce, Route 9, Plattsburgh.**

Note that October's meeting will likely be at Lyon Mountain Mining and Railroad Museum, and November at the Schuyler Falls Town Hall in Morrisonville.

Respectfully submitted,

*Barb*

Barb Benkwitt  
Secretary, ACCA