

## Minutes of the Adirondack Coast Cultural Alliance Meeting, February 9, 2017



President Ellen Adams called the meeting to order at 8:40am, Thursday, February 9, 2017 at CCHA. Thanks for hospitality and snacks!

**Present:** Ellen Adams (ATM, pres.), Karen Batchelder (CEFLS), Barb Benkwitt (Schuyler Falls Town), Julie Dowd (CCHA, NNYACGS), Geri Favreau (CCHA), Jane Saxe-Kelting (Lyon Mountain RXR+) John Krueger (CVNHP, vice-pres), Ricky Laurin (ATM, community, past-president), Helen Nerska (CCHA), Alina Walentowicz (Chamber), Don Wickman (KDM House Musesum)

The **minutes** of the January 12th meeting were approved with no changes - Ricky motioned, John seconded. Julie expanded on her view of the latest HAPAC / LCBP priority – setting meeting in that it was done very well and equitably; confirming what John had shared at the last meeting.

Alina gave the **financial report**. The balance is \$966.98 – the coordinator has been paid \$307.57 and \$25 dues was received. The amount received for coloring books has yet to be confirmed – John and Ellen will look at that. LCBP has officially approved providing the grant money for ACCA to the Chamber as the umbrella organization or coordinator’s salary. Motion to approve report by John, seconded by Jane, passed.

Melissa’s **coordinator’s report** (from Ellen) – Year-end report submitted to LCBP. Continue to check your emails for announcements of events and grants throughout the month. Some highlights – MANY conference is April 2-4. Humanities travel grants were filled in first hour; Pomeroy grants may still be available for professional development (by Feb 27). GHNN (Greater Hudson) applications due March 1; DPHSNY conservation grant application is open. May 23 - conservation workshop at the Plattsburgh Library. Watch emails for Strand events. A suggestion was made re providing hardcopy of the coordinator’s report to capture the dates. No action.

Committee Reports - Passport – met twice, asked each venue for updates to hours, and to provide a question that visitors would answer. Prizes are being developed to focus on different geographical local areas like Lyon Mountain (Chazy last year) and a night on the town, and the Chamber. To reach the Strand, suggestion to reach out to Mallory, or to phone. A reminder email was sent, still waiting for some responses. Due by February 22.

### **Old Business –**

**Chamber update** – Alina shared that the chamber is expanding its digital reach re early American History. An example is that the Strategic Tourism Chamber Committee (Education & Outreach) blog posted about Valcour Island Battle and the USS Philadelphia. The Smithsonian/American History Museum picked up on that, liked, and retweeted and linked to goadirondack.com, as the Philadelphia resides at the Smithsonian. She encourages more digital promos which can reach farther as alternatives to local press releases. Discussion continued – Helen, Rick, John. Tour options can be included in PDF on the chamber event website then linked to another site. Other ideas included links for specific walking tours, downtown, etc. Send events to Alina for social media. Note a presentation at the Chamber on March 7 at 10am by an intern at Town of Plattsburgh on web visibility.

Outreach – with SnowBall events upcoming in many venues. **Motion to provide coloring books for SnowBall events as requested from Alina. Motion by John, seconded by Helen, passed by acclamation.**

Reconfirming ACCA working groups:

PASSPORT – Ricky Laurin, Alina Walentowicz, Jane Saxe-Kelting, Melissa Peck

OUTREACH – John Krueger, Ricky Laurin, Geri Favreau, Helen Nerska – will meet (Geri/Helen co-chair)

EVENTS – Alina Walentowicz, Ellen Adams, Barb Benkwitt, Julie Dowd, Melissa – meeting soon

Membership dues 2017 – Organizations \$75, send to North Country Chamber, memo line ACCA.

Lake Champlain Weekly Museum Corner articles – February – Helen on ?; March – weekly articles on women's history – Helen to coordinate with Carolyn at LCW; April – Don; May – Ves Pivetta family stories; June – Ellen re museum weekend/Path Thru History; Whitney from E-town sometime as well.

### **New Business**

Question from Karen on QR codes and their usefulness – general consensus is that with APPs now, QR codes are not used much.

### **Museum Reports –**

Alice T. Miner Museum –February 9<sup>th</sup> – Rick Laurin talks about maple syrup history 1810 - present, Bob Cheeseman about Chazy school. Encouraging others to bring artifacts. March 2 – Dr. Curt Stager of Paul Smiths College, professor of climate science, talks about climate change in the North Country.. Jan McCormick has relocated to Portland, Oregon, so they are looking for a new program coordinator (see website). [Ellen]

Clinton County Historical Association/Museum – SnowBall Feb 20-22-24. Petticoats of Steel presentation at the Strand on March 1<sup>st</sup> on suffrage timeline, by Capital Repertory Theater in Albany, free. More events over the year on women's movement. Will be requesting an historic marker from the Pomeroy Foundation to recognize Hannah Strait Lansing of Keeseville, Plattsburgh (met Susan B Anthony in 1854, died 1916). [Helen]

Kent Delord House Museum – SnowBall events to be held Saturday February 11 for 5-10 yr olds, 18<sup>th</sup> Century games, coordinated by Plattsburgh High School senior docent and students. March 23-25 is Jane Austen conference on SUNY Plattsburgh. Looking to install weatherproof brochure racks outside, and also to provide self-guided, docent-assisted tours (rather than docent led). [Don]

Northern NY American Canadian Genealogical Society – Name change in the offing to the Clinton County Genealogical Library. [Julie]

Black History Month – lots going on at SUNY Plattsburgh. Don Papson giving a few lectures; article on Isaac Johnson, a free black slave, would be good – laid stones in Churubusco church.

Meeting adjourned 9:48 am (motioned Ricky, seconded Don).

### **NEXT MEETING –**

**Thursday, March 9th, 8:30am – Champlain Meeting House, Route 9, Champlain.**

### **APRIL MEETING –**

**Destination Master Plan review with consultant at Chamber, Thursday, April 6, 2017. 8 am (note time/date change!)**

Respectfully submitted,

*Barb*

Barb Benkwitt  
Secretary, ACCA