

## Minutes of the Adirondack Coast Cultural Alliance Meeting, July 13, 2017



President Ellen Adams called the meeting to order at 8:35 am, Thursday, July 13, 2017, at the Alice T. Miner Museum on Route 9 in Chazy. Thank you for hospitality and coffee and snacks!

**Present:** Ellen Adams (ATM, pres.), Karen Batchelder (CEFLS), Barb Benkwitt (Schuyler Falls Town), Julie Dowd (CCHA & NNYACGS/Genealogy), Ricky Laurin (ATM & community), Melissa Peck (coordinator, MLPBS), Leni Vradelis (ATM), Don Wickman (KDM House Museum).

Ellen welcomed all and **introduced** the new Program Director for the Alice T. Miner Museum, Leni Vradelis, who started just two days prior! Leni share some info about herself (from Hingham, Mass.; had worked with the Old Ordinary house museum, part of the Hingham Historical Society; graduated from McGill University and glad to be back in the Champlain Valley area). We all introduced ourselves and welcomed Leni to the area and group.

The **minutes** of the June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting were distributed (and had been emailed) and approved without changes; Julie moved, Karen seconded.

Alina was not present with the **financial report**. Reimbursement checks will be processed for the Museum Days banner and flyers. Submitting the request through Melissa is fine who will then contact Alina at the Chamber where the checks will be issued.

Melissa's **coordinator report** included Museum Days info (collected below). Re 2018 'dues' – the group felt that Melissa should send out requests for dues in August, with due-date in November so that we know how much extra is available for planning purposes and to give boards time to meet and approve. Dues will be as last year - \$75 for organizations, \$25 for individuals. Melissa is always looking for grant listings, listservs, training and event information to post. Please share with her. Grant examples include the Pomeroy Foundation (our Region 6 applications for historic markers open August 4, letter of inquiry due by September 15 - see webpage [www.wgpfoundation.org](http://www.wgpfoundation.org) ), and the Documentary Heritage & Preservation Services for NY (DHPSNY) - email [info@dhpsny.org](mailto:info@dhpsny.org).

**Museum Weekend** – Seventeen (17) venues opened, and statistics have so far been received from 8 (ATM, Babbie, Genealogy Society, Hearts' Delight, KDHM, Lyon Mtn, PAFB Museum). Please – remaining 9 – submit your info ASAP to Melissa- [coordinator@adkcoastcultural.org](mailto:coordinator@adkcoastcultural.org). The numbers are needed for our annual report to LCBP from whom we receive financial support. The counts so far were 1003 visitors, plus 49 volunteers, and financial windfall of about \$350 (from donations and sales). The Miner Museum noted there seemed to be fewer children attending – perhaps Dads and kids were someplace else due to Fathers' Day. Many people said they saw the Mountain Lake PBS story, spurring them to attend. Concerns raised were the first full-page Press-Republican ad did not show the current information, but that was quickly rectified (and P-R apologized profusely). Using P-R front page labels were suggested (standard cost \$520). The banner and flyers were positively received. In the large ad, one museum noted shortened hours, and others had minimal volunteer support (as seen by Melissa when she visited about 12 sites). Discussion centered around how ACCA might be able to help short-staffed sites – possibly by collecting and sharing where and how to ask for volunteers.

Some possibilities were mentioned – RSVP volunteers, volunteer fair, local businesses who allow employees off for a day of service, high schools and colleges for community service hours, and more. A concern about the weekend being free admission resulting in ‘loss of revenue’ was also shared. **More discussion is planned for next meeting on Museum Days** to address perceived negatives, shortened hours, scheduling of the weekend on a holiday, and volunteers.

**Opening of Macdonough Monument** – The monument was not open during Mayor’s Cup weekend (no volunteers). Julie Dowd is looking for volunteers for Battle of Plattsburgh Saturday September 9<sup>th</sup>, so the monument can be open from 10 am to 3 pm. The Race to the Eagle is also slated for the morning on Sept 9<sup>th</sup>. Specific times are being scheduled. Please contact Julie at [dunott@aol.com](mailto:dunott@aol.com) to volunteer. With many present, shorter shifts are possible. The monument will not be open during the parade that day, so watch the parade from a great locale and have fun welcoming folks to the area!

**NYS Suffrage Centennial** and other articles for Lake Champlain Weekly are still encouraged – contact Ellen to schedule and for information.

**Battle of Plattsburgh Commemoration weekend** – the next big event – is coming up soon. Don Wickman shared info from the Planning Committee on which he sits. Many events will be held on the Oval rather than Trinity Park. Museums likely will be requested to be open 10-3 or 10-4. Israel Green tavern may not happen as no vendors applied to serve. There will be concerts on Thursday and Friday evening, buttons are still slated for sale at \$15 each. **BOP will be a main topic next meeting** – Don will share. Suggested that Sandra Geddes be invited to bring info to ACCA meeting?

### **Museum Reports –**

Alice T. Miner Museum – On July 15 Saturday (10am) is another Walking Tour of Chazy; the walking tour on July 8<sup>th</sup> was successful though rainy, so they opted to have it again. On Friday July 21 at 7pm a concert by Sounds of the Northway is part of the 100<sup>th</sup> Year of Suffrage Commemoration. Other events scheduled in August. [Ellen]

Clinton County Historical Association/Museum – Roger Black will speak tonight, 6 pm on July 13 at the Base Chapel, on Presidential Connections to the North Country using the glass-plate negative pictures. [Julie]

Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System (CEFLS) – Karen spoke about the technology grant they are currently pursuing from the Northern NY Library Network to capture oral histories using the local libraries. They had discovered a free platform via a webinar in which they participated, which connects to Google Street View. By selecting a building in town, an historic photo of the same building could be connected as well as to the history of the building and other things to do in the area. Collaborations between the libraries and the municipalities where the library is located (such as with town of Champlain, village of Champlain) were discussed, with the library hosting presentations and generating interest, and then facilitating people coming in with their historic photos for scanning/digitizing/copying and talking about the photos on-site

at the library. An example would be to better capture the French culture that was so prevalent in the northern hamlets that is being lost as the older folks disappear. There was support for such a project. Suggestions included checking with TAUNY who recently was awarded a large grant and has had some meetings in the area. Informal French culture groups have met (Ricky Laurin, Celine Paquette as resources). Holding the publicity meetings with speakers then setting appointments for folks to bring in photos and share oral history was encouraged so that enough time is allotted to each family-type group. Other topics would be farming oral history. Leni is aware of oral history resources and helpful people at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. This sounds wonderful and the group looks forward to more updates! [Karen]

Kent-Delord House Museum – The Catholic Heart youth group from out of town recently volunteered at the museum – they were in town to help non-profits and households in need by performing work around. They were there from Thursday thru Saturday and did a lot of outdoor work which was appreciated. A recent grant application to the NYS Parks Consolidated Fund did not result in funds from them, but did result in contact with Betty Little’s office with funds available. An historic review is scheduled for July 24 and pending approval significant funds will be made available for major projects at the house. Exciting! [Don]

Northern NY A-C Genealogical Society and Library - Clyde Rabideau, Sr., who passed away in March, 2017, bequeathed to the Society and Library his publications and the rights to reprint them. Clyde was a genealogist who traveled, studied and wrote about his family Robidoux (Rabideau). He also published books on cemeteries and tombstones in Clinton County, obituary listings, and more. A complete listing of books available is on the society website ([www.nnyacgs.com](http://www.nnyacgs.com)). The society is grateful for his generous contribution. [Julie]

Schuyler Falls Town – The Gordie Little Memorial Bridge naming and commemoration in Morrisonville (Route 22B new bridge) is scheduled for Saturday July 30. Gordie passed away in June 2016; with wife Kaye the family were long-time residents of Schuyler Falls/Morrisonville, and lived only a stone’s throw from the bridge on the Saranac River. Clyde Rabideau Sr. also was a long-time resident of Schuyler Falls, from Irish Settlement Road. [Barb]

Meeting adjourned 9:38 am (by acclamation).

**NEXT MEETING –**

**Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, 8:30am – Kent-Delord House Museum, Plattsburgh**

Respectfully submitted,

*Barb*

Barb Benkwitt  
Secretary, ACCA