

Minutes of the Adirondack Coast Cultural Alliance Meeting, June 8, 2017



President Ellen Adams called the meeting to order at 8:37 am, Thursday, June 8, 2017, at the Clinton County Historical Association Museum on Ohio Ave, Plattsburgh. Thanks for hospitality and snacks!

Present: Ellen Adams (ATM, pres.), Karen Batchelder (CEFLS), Barb Benkwitt (Schuyler Falls Town), Jim Brangan (CVNHP, LCBP), Geri Favreau (CCHA), Jane Saxe-Kelting (Lyon Mountain RXR+), John Krueger (CVNHP, DMP, vice-pres.), Melissa Peck (coordinator, MLPBS), Stan Ransom (community+), Don Wickman (KDM House Museum)

The **minutes** of the May 11th meeting were distributed and approved; Don moved, John seconded.

Alina was not present to the **financial report**. Melissa mentioned that an invoice for the coordinator grant funding has been sent and processed by Jim at LCBP and funds are expected soon.

Melissa's coordinator report – Most of the time spent for ACCA was for Museum Days, in coordinating input for Press Republican, etc. Also, Melissa has been working with Thom Hallock who will be producing a 10-minute spot on Museum Days on Mountain Lake PBS, videoing/interviewing Melissa and Ellen on June 12th (for over 30 minutes), talking about this being the 10th Museum Days and sharing any images from participating organizations. Submit Hi-Res images to Melissa by June 11 (*as was indicated in a separate email from Melissa to all on June 9th*). Airing will be on Mountain Lake Journal June 16th. A brief preview is already on their website <https://mountainlake.org>.

Museum Weekend – Seventeen (17) venues are confirmed. Museum Days flyers listing the museums with the dates June 17-18, 10a-4p were distributed. 750 were printed, over half were being sent to local libraries via Clinton-Essex-Franklin library system (thanks to Karen Batchelder). Ellen will be installing the banner announcing Museum Days on the fence near Georgia-Pacific.

Melissa reminded – all organizations – it's imperative you keep track of and report number of guests you have on Museum Days. Report each day separately, the number of visitors, number of volunteers, any revenue made those days (via donations or sales as admission is free). Please also ask and record where visitors heard about Museum Days – striving to understand what works best – online / Facebook / flyers / banner / Press-Republican / PBS / word-of-mouth, etc. Note there is not Facebook ACCA-posted event page – each organization should post the event on their own Facebook page.

Jane noted one problem with the Passport and asked everyone to make corrections on the Passports they have in hand. On the Lyon Mountain page, they are open only Saturdays in September. Also the new exhibit is now 'Military' – from World War I to current-day Afghanistan. (*Their info from last year was mistakenly included in this year's Passport, rather than the new info for this year.*)

Again, be sure to open from 10-4 both Saturday and Sunday. All the best for a wonderful weekend to all 17 participating organizations!

If you need more Passports – they are available at the Chamber of Commerce. Please call with a heads up if you need a lot so that Alina/staff can have them ready for you (phone 518-563-1000).

Macdonough Monument Openings – Julie Dowd will be coordinating volunteers to staff the Macdonough Monument open times during the Mayor’s Cup in July, and during the Battle of Plattsburgh in September. Please contact her to volunteer – it’s fun to interact with a wide variety of folks and to share the excitement about history and culture in our area. E-mail dunott@aol.com.

Discussion of CVNHP 2018 - Jim Brangan

Jim recapped that they are beginning to identify emerging issues to the work plan for FY 2018, theme ‘Making of Nations’. Think about and propose any grand ideas – and provide to Melissa by June 9th (*as Melissa had indicated also in a separate email to all*). On Monday June 12th the HAPAC group will have their first meeting about projects/programs/grand ideas for that budget year. Projects likely would run during the time period September 2018 – December 2019. Grant applications for this year will likely be issued in September 2017. See also the handout from last meeting on CVNHP.

Museum Reports –

Alice T. Miner Museum – On July 8 Saturday is a Walking Tour of Chazy – general Chazy history, how buildings and architecture changed over the years. On Friday July 21 at 7 pm a concert by Sounds of the Northway is part of the 100th Year of Suffrage Commemoration. [Ellen]

Clinton County Historical Association/Museum – Art Cohn’s talk on the Spitfire and Philadelphia boats at the Base Chapel on June 6 was very successful with over 60 people attending. Reclamation, restoration, and installation of the Spitfire from Lake Champlain to possible local location is a 25-year project. Art’s 3-Gunboats book was well received and sold out. Comments included possibly moving the Royal Savage in the future. The next talks scheduled at the Chapel include Roger Harwood on June 27 on Valcour Island Camps, and Roger Black on July 13 on Presidential Connections to the North Country. The Plattsburgh Idea and WWI exhibit is almost set; the Redford glass and music exhibits have been moved to make room for a Suffrage in Clinton County display. June 20 at 7 pm – Book signing at the Valcour Brewing Company with Rich Frost and Melissa Peck for their new book on the Plattsburgh Military Reservation. A new Clinton County Memories book including the 1940’s-1950’s-1960’s is in process. At the Day of Caring a few months ago, 16 guys from Sigma Tau Gamma accomplished a lot around the museum. Walking Tours of the Oval are scheduled, the Bluff Point Lighthouse is open for the summer, and Plattsburgh City Hall has been chosen for this year’s collectible ornament. Most other year’s ornaments are almost sold out. [Geri]

Kent-Delord House Museum – Seton Catholic High and SUNY Plattsburgh volunteers complete the fence painting (215 ft.) and handicap ramp installation for only the \$500 cost of the paint. The picket-style fence was erected likely in the Miner era (~1913). The 3-board rough-cut fence is more historically correct to the older era of the house, pre-1913. On Museum Weekend there will be a ‘garden railway’ exhibit outside. [Don]

Lyon Mountain Museum– The exhibit from WWI -> Afghanistan is open and is amazing. It includes artifacts, photos, uniforms and more. On June 17, Dr. John Moravic will speak on the history of Lyon Mountain; June 18 will feature a speaker and conversation on the Boy Scout exhibit. July 15 is a dinner recognizing the 50-year anniversary of the closing of the mines at Lyon Mountain (June 10, 1967). Other events like a Lyon Mountain baseball game are being planned also. Port Henry mines closed about 5 years after Lyon Mountain. [Jane]

Rouses Point Welcome Center – Geri reported that Bob St. John is president now and that they will have a military exhibit. [Geri]

Additional Discussion/Sharing –

Melissa mentioned that Mountain Lake PBS likes to partner with local organizations so do consider contracting MLPBS if you have any production needs.

Jane suggested that more exhibit workshops be held as sometimes the times are not workable. Melissa sends out info from NYS Archives and on upcoming talks via Documentary Heritage & Preservation Services for NY (DHPSNY). To get directly on the mailing list, email info@dhpsny.org. Also suggested was going to YouTube and searching Museum Exhibit DIY and then a specific category like ‘weapon’ or other. YouTube has a lot of great ‘how-to’s.

Meeting adjourned 9:31 am (motioned John, seconded Karen).

NEXT MEETING –

Thursday, July 13, 8:30am – Alice T. Miner Museum, Route 9, Chazy.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb

Barb Benkwitt
Secretary, ACCA