

Adirondack Coast Cultural Alliance Minutes - Meeting of February 15, 2018



President Ellen Adams called the meeting to order at 8:36 am, Thursday, February 15, 2018, at the Clinton County Historical Association & Museum, Old Base Museum Campus, Plattsburgh. Thanks for hosting and for snacks!

Present: Ellen Adams (Alice T Miner Museum, pres.), Karen Batchelder (CEF Library System), Barb Benkwitt (Town of Schuyler Falls, Sec'y), Betsy Brooks (CEF Library System), Jane Kelting (Lyon Mountain Museum), Helen Nerska (CCHA), Valerie Pawlewicz (AARCH), Melissa Peck (ACCA coordinator, MLPBS), Alyssa Senecal (Chamber & Visitors Bureau), Leni Vradelis (ATM & Champlain History Center).

Introductions went around the table to welcome visitor Betsy from the Library System, and to Valerie who joined AARCH about two months ago to coordinate their tours and walks around town (and more). Welcome!

The **minutes** of the October 12th meeting and the December 14th mini-meeting and dinner were distributed and approved with only change to indicate the next meeting as February 15 (since we postponed a week due to weather, and didn't meet in January). Jane moved and Valerie seconded.

Alyssa presented the **financial report**. There have been no incoming dues payments recently for 2018 save for that from Town of Beekmantown. Organizations/individuals are requested to please send in dues contributions as soon as possible so we know if there are any additional funds available to support our collective organizations (such as signage for Museum Weekend, joint advertisement, etc.) Checks should be sent to the Chamber of Commerce with ACCA in the memo line. Outgoing expenses were monthly coordinator payments. The balance stands at \$2191.97. Alyssa also mentioned and handed out a flyer on the April 21st Day of Caring. See also the United Way website or the recent email for info.

Melissa presented the **coordinator's report**. Her full report will be sent in an email. Highlights included a run-down of upcoming webinars, request to thank Betty Little for supporting the Museum Education funding bill, updates from Humanities NY, DHPSNY, the State Historian, Path Thru History (on June 16-17, and also on October 6-8/holiday weekend), and grants available. The State Historian is advocating changing New York State History Month from November to October to include more seasonal museum open times.

Museum Weekend Planning & Passport Prizes

Alyssa said that all organizations (less one) in the Passport have now updated their information for 2018 and it is with the designer. She is waiting for the Rouses Point Welcome Center and needs any updates from them and this year's prizes no later than February 28. Ellen reiterated that our Museum Days will again coincide with Path Thru History on June 16-17, and that we should look at again having events in October. The past year's Passport prizes have not yet been awarded as we are still waiting for one prize expected shortly. Once received, the winners will be notified and a press release issued so that the donors know they have received the promised publicity. The recent prizes have been 'Night on the Town', a Regional Gift basket, and an Adirondack Coast basket. Discussion centered on how best to ensure the prizes are in hand by award time, and also to 'change it up' a bit. It was agreed to focus on a Regional Gift Basket as the main prize to include restaurant certificate, local food, cultural events, etc. Previous locales were Chateauguay/Lyon Mountain and Chazy. Second prize would be a selection of historical books, and third prize Adirondack Coast branded gear. Regions suggested were Peru or Champlain/north.

ACTION: Ellen will secure region items from Peru/Keeseville, Geri Favreau – books; Alyssa – ADK Coast items.

StoryBox Program created by HistoryPin – presented by Betsy Brooks of CEFLS

Betsy described the StoryBox program that CEFLS has available. They received a grant to obtain five kits that can be used by libraries with other organizations to allow individuals in small groups to tell their family stories thus enhancing the local cultural heritage and history. The kit has resources to begin then expand conversations about a person's roots and history, schools, farming, and other town topics, so that all learn more about past life while the person sharing has their story told and saved. Photos can be included by digitizing them. HistoryPin has a site that can be a repository for the information or it could be uploaded to Heritage NY, etc. The kits include ways to open the story, questions to refine the story, and then the story can be written down or captured as oral history.

Betsy wanted to introduce this resource to the history community who could work in conjunction with a local library to take advantage of this resource. It is also going to be shared at an upcoming American Library Association meeting. For more info, contact Betsy Brooks, Automation Librarian, at brooks@cefls.org or phone 518-563-5190 X 35. Thanks Betsy – very interesting! *Note- a brief description also included on the NNYLN website <https://nnyln.org/2018/01/30/member-profile-cefls-is-starting-conversations-using-historypin-by-betsy-brooks/>*

Old Base Museum Campus Facebook page

Helen shared that the Museum Campus now has a Facebook page (developed by Julie Dowd) to highlight the 5 museums (CCHA, CVT and Kids' Station, BOP and PAFB), 2 breweries (Valcour and Oval), 3 parks (Clyde Lewis, Veterans, Rotary), the Old Post Cemetery, Terry Gordon Bike Path, and beach – all available on the Old Base. Plus with the City Rec Center – visitors can come and spend the day and have a wide variety of opportunities all in one area. CCHA is taking the lead while ensuring that all venues get equivalent 'play' on the Facebook page. Alyssa/Chamber will look at this branding on the 'I Love NY' site. Leveraging resources to generate more energy!

Valerie commented that at AARCH her role is to provide experiences for their members and the public, so if there are walking tours around the Old Base that could be AARCH promoted/developed, to be sure to let her know. Valerie mentioned that on November 2 at Valcour Brewing (based in the Old Stone Barracks), AARCH will be hosting their AARCH awards luncheon celebrating historical preservation, etc. Valerie also mentioned a summit on July 17 (Tuesday afternoon from 3-6 pm) at the Hotel Saranac, bringing together well-known architects, builders, preservation stewards, homeowners, designers, historians, and more to share info and insight. The cost is slated to be \$100, and would include tours. Other organizations who might like to have a display table or contribute to the workshop should contact Valerie at AARCH. (Valerie@aarch.org)

Sharing of 2018 Calendars – Input needed!!

Ellen started a calendar listing of events planned for the year from those in attendance. The intent is to minimize conflicts of major events and share/co-produce/co-promote events to reach more audiences. We just got started and time was short, so please contact Ellen Adams at the Alice T. Miner Museum with key dates/events planned so the yearly overview can be shared with all. (director@minermuseum.org) Target by the next ACCA meeting on March 8th. Leni described a WWI History 'festival' on Saturday July 14, at the Miner Institute, recreating a similar event held by the American Red Cross in May 1918. Contributors from other organizations are encouraged. Monthly events are planned at the Alice T Miner Museum (Feb 15 Rich Frost novel, Mar 10 Maple Sugaring talk, Apr 5 Marble workshop, Apr 19 Chazy Drama Club performances, May 5 open house, May 19 natural yarn dyeing workshop, Jun 2 Chazy Village walking tour). Kids Camp will be coordinated not to conflict with CCHA's camp. CCHA dates are pending, as are Lyon Mountains. Lyon Mountain is planning for 2019's theme to be immigration. Other important dates include Battle of Plattsburgh September 6-9, Irish Festival March 16, Chamber hospitality training March 23 and Google optimization workshop April 5. Melissa shared Mountain Lakes PBS Discovery tours on June 2 (to Adirondack Experience/Blue Mountain Lake), Aug 18 (Ausable Chasm), Sept 16 (Fort Ti) Oct 21 (Wild Center). Day of Caring is April 21st.

Meeting adjourned 9:46 am. Calendaring to be continued at next meeting!

NEXT MEETING –

Thursday, March 8th, 8:30 AM at the Alice T. Miner Museum, 9618 US Rte 9, Chazy.

(April 12th meeting location – Schuyler Falls Town Hall, Morrisonville)

Respectfully submitted,

Barb

Barb Benkwitt
Secretary, ACCA