

**Minutes of the Adirondack Coast Cultural Alliance Meeting,
January 9, 2014**



Rick Laurin called the meeting to order at 8:07 AM on Thursday, January 09, 2014 at Plattsburgh State's Myers Building, Room 232, floor 2. Present were Erick Tichonuk (LCMM), Jim Brangan (CVNHP/LCBP), Dave Deno (BOPA), Susan Arena (AARCH), Ellen Adams (The Alice), Samantha Bellinger (PSU Art), Don Wickman (KDL), Jackie Madison (NCUGRHA), Jane Saxe-Kelting (Lyon Mtn), Melissa Peck (CCHA), Julie Dowd (CCHA, NNYACGS), Geri Favreau (RP-CHS, CCHA), John Krueger (City+), Tammy Brown (ACCA Coord), Barb Benkwitt (SF Town) and Ricky Laurin (ACCA Chair).

Introductions - done.

Special guest and presentation about the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum by Erick Tichonuk.

Erick has been with the museum since 1985 working closely with its founders; executive director since 2013. Erick spoke about three initiatives: Underwater Blueways Trail/Underwater State Park system; the Lois McClure mobile museum in its 10th year; and long boats, boat-building and rowing. He talked about their approach to serving the entire Champlain Valley, how they've grown from one building, to 17 now. Erick provided brochures as well as requested brochures (to be available through the Christy at the Chamber), and encouraged all to visit. Discussion continued about a New York satellite location possibility, the Crete location Discovery Center complex, and tours to LCMM via AARCH. Very interesting and thought-provoking

Secretary's Report/Approval –

Minutes of the December meeting were provided at the meeting. John moved, Samantha seconded and the minutes were approved.

Financial Report –

Financial report through December 31, 2013 provided. Samantha moved, John seconded, and the financial report was approved.

Coordinator Report –

Please get events to Tammy, who will be working the next two weeks to clean up the website, etc., before a new coordinator is named. Will be adding French to this site, even if a new webhoster is selected in April/May.

Motion made by Barb, seconded by John, to enthusiastically thank Tammy for her service to ACCA and as coordinator, and to wish her well in her new role. Motion carried by hearty acclamation. Thanks from Tammy. She said Dave is fully established at the War of 1812 and PAFB Museums, and she'll continue as coordinator until a new one is named, as well as be around. Keep in touch!

Old Business –

- As on agenda – Passport Prize sent, pamphlet for ACCA (pending); BOP skits (in process with Bob Cheeseman, Rich Frost, Rick Laurin); Activity Books (continuing, 90% complete for agriculture; 40% complete for BOP)

New Business

- Coordinator Position – One candidate (Melissa Peck), if any others, apply by January 10.
- Lake Champlain Blueways – Update next meeting
- 2014 Budget – Discussed budget line to clarify items and amounts, reviewed questions from Helen Nerska (via email, unable to get a SKYPE connection this morning). Questions from the

floor - if there were by-laws, and/or if a board of directors might discuss topics ahead of time, to streamline meetings.

Motion made by Rick to accept the budget for 2014 as proposed, seconded by Melissa. Passed.

- Lively discussion amongst all present on these topics: ACCA mission / vision / future / plans / goals / 5 year strategic plan / coordination with Chamber/ Destination Master Plan (a 20-yr plan) , other stakeholder groups – Agritourism, Discover History, ArtWays, outdoor recreation, etc. Since the Lake Champlain Basin Program looks to regional groups like ACCA for grant programs, process, planning, it's important for other groups to participate in ACCA. Ideas included a cultural workshop, newspaper article. Rick to review the mission statement.
- Lake Champlain Basin Program CVNHP local heritage and commemoration grants awarded. There were very few applicants this round. (Includes 2 to CCHA, 1 to Schuyler Falls, + others.)

Museum Reports

- Rouses Point Historical (Geri) – waiting for village board action
- CCHA (Melissa) – 2014 program lined up; Feb 8/15 – Heritage interviews on winter traditions; Feb 22 Plattsburgh Snowball 2014 event – survival
- The Alice (Ellen) – Renovations underway in Feb/Mar. Hosting a Civil War reading group & discussions in Feb/Mar.
- NNYACGS (Julie) – Identifying War of 1812/BOP descendants, Macomb grandparents, adding to CCHA Civil War book to be published
- PSU Art (Sam) – Noah Savett exhibition in January; Snowball event Feb 26, school program
- AARCH (Susan) – Santanoni weekends continue to ski/hike in, preparing summer tour schedule, looking for partnership opportunities
- NCUGRHA (Jackie) – Many events with MLK Commission and Black History Month (Feb). Films to be shown from the 'Created Equal – America's Civil Rights Struggle' series.
- KDL (Don) – Snowball event February 19; renovating gift shop area to a revolving exhibit space.
- BOP & PAFB (Dave) - Writing contest for school ages coming up; intern from PSU to start end of January; BOP committee meeting re September events. PAFB grants received, planning June 7 opening.
- Lyon Mtn (Jane) – Activity book will be ready for Spring 2014 opening. Suggested giving out pins or coins to visitors, perhaps branded with ACCA as well. Discussion ensued about geocaching, selling or giving out pins or coins, or perhaps magnets. Jane to investigate costs.

Rick – Comments

- Two new Plattsburgh groups energizing the area – First Weekend (Tim McCormick) and Plattsburgh Renewal (Chris Rosenquest). Excitement!
- Committee for developing 5-year plan?
- Next meeting – ACCA pamphlet?
- BOP committee to present schedule?

Chamber update / Passport

[Amber sent email 1/15/14 with Passport applications & questions - due at Feb ACCA meeting or by February 14]

Next meeting – NOTE TIME CHANGE - Thursday, February 13, 2014, 8:30 AM

Adirondack Architectural Heritage, 1745 Main Street, Keeseville, NY 12944 (518) 834-9328

Motion to adjourn by John; seconded by Don. Meeting adjourned at 9:43 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Benkwitt
ACCA Secretary