

**Minutes of the Adirondack Coast Cultural Alliance Meeting,
July 10, 2014**



Chair Ricky Laurin called the meeting to order at 8:07 AM on Thursday, July 10, 2014 at the Kent Delord House 'Barn', Plattsburgh, NY. Present were *Celine Paquette* (Samuel D. Champlain History Center), *Janet McFetridge* (Village of Champlain), *Jim Brangan* (LCBP, CVNHP), *Amber Parliament* (ADK Coast Visitors Bureau), *Ellen Adams* (The Alice), *Marlene Almodovar* (NCUGRHA), *Samantha Bellinger* (PSU Art Museum), *Dave Deno* (BOPA/PAFBM), *Bill Glidden* (Town of Plattsburgh), *Jane Saxe-Kelting* (LMMRR), *Helen Nerska & Geri Favreau* (CCHA), *Julie Dowd* (NNYACGS, CCHA), *Don Wickman* (KDL), *Ricky Laurin* (ACCA, Agritourism), *John Krueger* (City, LCBP), *Barb Benkwitt* (Town of Schuyler Falls), and *Melissa Peck* (ACCA Coordinator & CCHA).

Introductions. Welcome all. Special welcome to Celine and Janet from Champlain, and thanks to Don Wickman/KDL for hosting in this cool outdoor space.

Secretary's Report/Minutes Approval –

Minutes of the May 8th and June 12th 2014 meetings had been emailed and also provided at the meeting. Motion to approve minutes by John, Bill seconded. Minutes approved.

Financial Report/Approval –

Financial report Jan 1 through early July, 2014 was provided. Current balance is \$3740.39. Discussion about coloring books, income for ad sales in them and their costs/availability. Accounting of the coloring books will be kept separate from general ACCA. A few organizations have donated to ACCA. A reminder/dues letter will be considered; tabled for now by motions from John/second by Don. Samantha moved, Ellen seconded; financial report approved.

Coordinator's Report – Melissa Peck

Send in figures for Museum Days (and confirm those for 2012-2013-2014 if possible). Looking for trends, what worked/didn't. Next year Dozer Days is scheduled for the weekend after Museum Weekend, which will be Saturday and Sunday, June 6th and 7th. Thanks, Bill for Dozer Days date switch.

LCBP/CVNHP – Jim Brangan

Continuing to solicit emerging issues; local heritage grants will continue in the future. Connecting kids to history via arts is strong. Recapping –

2016 - Conservation in connection with National Park Service anniversary; 2017 – Transportation. Open topic of shelves Jim had – Lyon Mountain obtained them with shadow boxes, with thanks!

Other opportunities for ACCA promotion – Helen Nerska

Helen mentioned that CCHA had participated in Rulfs' Strawberry Festival, and very successfully. Brainstorming of other local events which might warrant ACCA representation (or museum participation) Dozer Days, Rulfs Strawberry Festival (and Fall event?), House of History in Malone, Farmer's Market Saturday mornings in Plattsburgh, Chateaugay Lake Arts/Crafts show (last Sat. in July – the 26th), Champlain Village festival/Champlain Telephone open house August 16; Battle of Valcour commemoration and also Champlain Valley Wine Festival at Crete Center October 11. No action by ACCA but awareness and ideas for organizations.

Activity/Coloring Books – Rick Laurin

Rick explained the background for the books, and value of them to the community and in engaging young people in history and telling local stories. This can also support local businesses. The concept had been endorsed by ACCA several years ago, and Rick and people he'd connected with have designed, created and written the books (all volunteer), and also sold ads to pay for the printing. The idea is Brand Building for ACCA and its representative organization. Local museums can do their own (as Lyon Mountain has done), or use Rick's and his resources. Books can be had through ACCA for 50 cents with a tax exempt form. An idea had been to sell the books in order to fund more for ACCA. Discussion centered on a backup for Rick if ever needed to continue the project(s), a page for all museums in each book, concern of the coloring book ad checks being written to CCHA that could skew donors to limiting other donations to CCHA, and the mix of this effort in the ACCA budget which is under CCHA's 501c-3. The idea of obtaining a grant for coloring books from the Council of the Arts was floated. After discussion it was decided to continue discussion on the

coloring books within the proposed board of directors for ACCA, with continued thanks and 'good work' to Rick for all his efforts.

Board of Directors proposal – John Krueger

John offered a proposed board of 7 for ACCA. The Board would work on/confirm/propose strategic planning, terms of office/position descriptions, etc. Thinking it's time now -- how can ACCA participation benefit the individual groups while the sum of all groups is more 'powerful' / influential than any one of us individually.

The proposed slate was presented and volunteers agreed to participate as follows. A meeting will be set soon.

Ricky Laurin (president and agritourism)

Ellen Adams (vp and northwestern tier)

Barb Benkwitt (secretary and municipal historians)

Helen Nerska (treasurer and CCHA)

Samantha Bellinger (arts)

Marlene Almodovar (southwestern tier)

John Krueger (Lake Champlain Basin Program and Destination Master Plan)

Chamber Update – Amber

Amber described the fishing tournaments upcoming, the Travel Guide, Clinton County Fair, Vacation maps 2014-2015 (which can be requested from the Chamber). She also described geocaching, referring to www.geocaching.com as a way to engage visitors to the area. Current locations include PSU, The Alice, BOPA, KDL, Lyon Mountain, etc. Tim Bressett of Ausable Chasm is involved in this project also.

Updates from the Group

The Alice/Ellen – hosting a book-signing at the end of August. We can host the next ACCA meeting!

BOP & PAFB/Dave – Movie night July 30 on battlefield losses. Retired general to speak at PAFB.

CCHA/Meliss, Helen – Royal Savage book signing; July 26 – John Krueger Oval walk; Aug 4 – Penny Clute talk on law history in Clinton County; July – Civil War youth camp; Aug 15-18 – Soldier youth camp and Officer Training with Matt Hewson; October – book sale and art show.

City/John Krueger – Historic signage developed with Anastasia Pratt and Colin Read using bed tax revenues; ~60 possible sign locations determined. Other towns or hamlets interested? Contact Colin Read.

KDL/ Don – Across the Fence on WCAX Ch3 on July 10 at 12:10 pm; Garden Tours on July 12; Barn Dance and Fireworks for Mayor's Cup; July 24th Kevin Crisman talk on Coffins of the Brave – ships of the War of 1812

Lyon Mountain/Jane – Chicken dinner at American Legion July 19th, fundraiser.

Plattsburgh State Art/Sam – Reunion weekend events in July; Summer Safari week; classes resume end of August.

Rouses Point Historical/Geri – Open times have changed – now open 10:30a-3p Wednesday – Saturday.

UGR/Jackie & Marlene – July 20th Solomon Northrup talk at Peru Library by Don Papson; Aug 7th Freedom Festival of Music; end of August Tom Calarco book signing (tentative).

Celine and Janet – Champlain – Cultural center opening, speakers, community room.

NYS Military Museum/Bill Glidden – Civil War Living history tour 1st Thursday of each month through May 7, 2015 at the State Capitol – "Culminating Colors" – includes imagery and flags. Free.

Next meeting -- Thursday, August 14, 2014, 8:30 AM at The Alice T. Miner Museum, Route 9, Chazy

Motion to adjourn by; seconded by. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Benkwitt

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ACCA Recording Secretary