

Adirondack Coast Cultural Alliance Minutes - Meeting of May 10, 2018



President Ellen Adams called the meeting to order at 8:35 am, Thursday, May 10, 2018, at the North Country Chamber of Commerce. Thanks, Alyssa for hosting & facilitating access to coloring books and Passports.

Present: Ellen Adams (Alice T Miner Museum, pres.), Barb Benkwitt (Town of Schuyler Falls, Sec'y), Jim Brangan (LCBP/Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership), Julie Dowd (CCHA & NNYACGS), Christina Elliott (Plattsburgh State Art Museum, Museum Educator), Geri Favreau (CCHA), Felicia Herzog (Plattsburgh State Art Museum), Jane Saxe Kelting (Lyon Mountain Museum), Ricky Laurin (ATMM), Helen Nerska (CCHA), Alyssa Senecal (Chamber/Visitor Bureau), Don Wickman (Kent Delord House Museum). Welcome to Christina and Felicia; good to see Jim Brangan to provide insight on current and future year grants and direction.

The **minutes** of the April 12th meeting were reviewed and approved (Helen moved, Ricky seconded). The **treasurer's report** shows yet a few blips in posting (coordinator's July/Aug payroll, Schuyler Falls town dues as \$75 instead of \$25). This will be reviewed again. There are adequate funds to cover additional signage (realtor-type signs) for Museum Weekend upcoming June 16-17, 2018. Geri raised the question as to whether ACCA would be represented at the Hotel Saranac workshop in June; not planned as of this moment.

Melissa provided a coordinator's report – Publicity for Museum Weekend is ramping up. The deadline for *Press-Republican* event promo full-page ad is May 28. Most venues have submitted information. Alyssa at the Chamber can also promo Chamber members' events – send information to her.

Museum Weekend Planning –

Passports are now available, 'stickered up' to correct the prize page. Suggestion for next year would be to have more folks look at the final version before printing. Timing is always short, though. As agreed at a previous ACCA meeting, all venues can have as many ACCA coloring books as needed to be able to distribute them free on Museum Weekend. Both can be taken after the meeting, or by arrangement with Alyssa at the Chamber.

Venues shared info on Museum Weekend plans –

The Plattsburgh State Art Museum galleries are being renovated, so Passports will be available in the lobby of Myer Fine Arts building. Directions for Walking Tours of the outdoor Sculpture Art will also be provided. There will be one guided tour.

Ricky mentioned that the Lions organization may be able to provide volunteers including teenagers. Contact him.

Christina is now interim editor of *Lake Champlain Weekly*, and as such will promo the Weekend too. Deadline for June 6th issue would be May 23, with the June 13th issue also before Museum Weekend. Melissa will get info to Christina.

There will also be a car show Saturday at the Crete Center, and a lacrosse tournament on the Oval both days of Museum Weekend. Hoping that promo-ing Museum Weekend at those venues could increase attendance.

General Museum Sharing –

PSU Art Galleries are closed. A Rockwell Kent exhibit is currently at the Hyde Collection in Glens Falls.

Kent Delord House Museum will open May 15. Docent training is being held – 20 are now on their list including 4 new docents and 8 teenagers.

CCHA – New brochures describing the Old Base Museum Campus are available, a collaboration of sites there to make it a destination with museums, breweries, parks, planes and cemeteries. *Strictly Business* magazine also featured the museum campus recently. CCHA is also working on a Clinton County History Conference in the Fall, and mentioned that the Town of Plattsburgh in conjunction with the National DAR is planning for America 250, July 4, 2026, including the Battle of Valcour commemoration. The boat tour to Valcour Island is July 15, taking 5 people every half hour from 9a to 2p. August 12 is the rain date, and may be used for a second tour date if not needed due to rain on July 15. With one's own transportation to Valcour, the lighthouse and island will be open from 1-

3pm Sundays in July and August. CCHA also continues to work on the WWI list of Clinton County vets, and is planning a panel on the Plattsburg Idea in Fall 2018.

The Alice T. Miner Museum is planning their Centennial Summer Fair commemorating World War I on Saturday, July 14, from 1-4pm, held at the Miner Farm. There is no entrance fee. Since this commemorates the Red Cross, donations will go to support the United Way. Items are gratefully accepted for loan to ATMM for display at the Horse Barn in a locked display case.

Lyon Mountain Mining and Railroad Museum will share some of their WWI exhibit at Miner. Kent Delord House Museum is sharing their 48-star flag. Ricky will have items showcased as well.

Ricky mentioned that Siena College representatives plan to be in Clinton County on June 24, speaking with Celine Paquette and others on French family ties, recording audio and video recollections of what it was like in earlier days. Also, David Graham took New York students to present a concert in French to students in Quebec.

Don Wickman will be the speaker at the Fort Chambly international memorial service on June 2, describing the scourge of smallpox.

Lake Champlain Basin Program – update by Jim Brangan

The Lake Champlain Basin Program Steering Committee met in May, with Heritage Area Regional Stakeholders. The Contract has been signed with the National Park Service for next summer. Projects to be funded as follows –

1. Local heritage grants - \$30K - students, arts, history
2. Interpretive Theme – Conservation and Community; Year of Salmon – 4 grants @\$7500 ea
3. Wayside Exhibits - \$10K available
4. Hosting international summits - \$7K
5. Internships – 5 @ \$5K – Historical and Visitor sites
6. Conservation restoration, collection, cataloging – 3@\$10K
7. In time for 2026 – Support for Spitfire restoration - \$10K available ; strategic planning for all stakeholders is needed. Art Cohen is still involved.

Other info – 150th Anniversary Corning Glass Barge tour by the Lois McClure, traveling from May to October recognizing the move of Corning Glass from from Brooklyn to Corning, NY

RFPS will be issued soon – awards are contingent on funding.

Note that in the next fiscal year, the regional stakeholder funding has been transferred to interpretive themes, so funding for ACCA coordinator will end. Agritours, Transport and others also not funded.

The budget process includes Pre-Proposals that will be discussed at the annual summit that will be more like a conference to be held in Vermont in early November 2018. Stay tuned for details.

Meeting adjourned 10 am.

NEXT MEETING –

Thursday, June 14th, 8:30 AM at the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System offices, Oak Street in Plattsburgh

Respectfully submitted,

Barb

Barb Benkwitt, ACCA Secretary