

**Minutes of the Adirondack Coast Cultural Alliance Meeting,  
November 14, 2013**



Rick Laurin called the meeting to order at 8:04 AM on Thursday, November 14, 2013 at the Clinton County Historical Museum on the Old Base/Ohio Ave, Plattsburgh. In attendance were Julie Dowd, Geri Favreau, Janet Kennedy, John Krueger, Dick Soper, Don Wickman, Samantha Bellinger, Margaret Gibbs, Paula Dennis, Sharon Bell, Jim Bailey, Amber Parliament, Jacqueline Madison, Bill Glidden, Jim Brangan, Jane Saxe-Kelting, Amanda Palmer, Ellen Adams, Melissa Peck, Helen Nerska (via SKYPE), Tammy Brown, Barb Benkwitt and Ricky Laurin.

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**Introductions –**

We each introduced ourselves, with special welcomes to Don Wickman, new director at the Kent Delord House; Ellen Adams, assistant at Alice T. Miner Museum; and Margaret Gibbs, Janet Kennedy, and Paula Dennis of Essex County and the Lake Champlain Blueway Trail. Rick extended his appreciation to all for attending.

**Secretary's Report –**

Barb moved and Amanda seconded to approve the minutes of the October meeting, adding Amber Parliament of the Visitors Bureau as an attendee. With this addition, the minutes were accepted.

**Financial Report –**

Samantha moved and John seconded, and the financial report was approved.

**Coordinator Report –**

Tammy asked for events for the next 3-4 months to be provided to her ASAP, preferably 25 words or less and photos in JPEG format to facilitate entering the event on the website. Regarding posting a non-ACCA member group's event on the ACCA website - the CVNHP grant received is inclusive for promoting all events in the region, thus posting on ACCA is acceptable. A brief discussion of ACCA dues ensued, confirming dues are recommended and voluntary and unique to ACCA of the regional stakeholder groups. Again – please provide the events in an easy-to-post format, and to Amber as well.

**Old Business –**

- Passport 2013 – The winners have been notified, with Amanda/Rick to pursue a press release and picture of the winners.
- Passport 2014 – A committee is needed for 2014. Volunteers? Jane Kelting; others contact Amber Parliament. Thanks to Amber & Chamber for facilitating and \$1000!

**New Business –**

- History and Genealogy Month – November is denoted as History Month and Genealogy Month by New York State, but with minimal-to-no fanfare. It may be that the APHNYS (the public historians' association) will have further insight at their annual conference in March, per Bill Glidden and Barb Benkwitt. Tabled for future - is this an opportunity during this 'slower' time?
- 2014 Budget – Tabled until December meeting; adopt then.
- Lake Champlain Blueway Trail – Margaret Gibbs, Janet Kennedy and Paula Dennis provided a handout and described this exciting initiative made possible through a NY Department of State grant of \$25K and building on Lakes-to-Locks. Data collection is projected to take ~ 9-12 months, with a release date of Summer/Fall 2014 for an audio/visual PassagePort. For the Lake,

from Whitehall to Rouses Point, the idea is to enable those on the water to also be aware of interesting sites along or inland from the Lake, and building on the Lake-to-Locks website (lakestolocks.org), thematic mobile app(s) that can link to special interests, and so on, thus providing enhanced experiences to our visitors with kayaks, boats, canoes, etc., and link also to waterfront development both in NY and Vermont. Jane Kelting, John Krueger, Helen Nerska, and Geri Favreau volunteered to serve and link from ACCA to the LC Blueway Trail project. Thank you!

- CVNHP – About 55 people, half from Quebec and Canada, and half from the US, met in Montreal October 27/28, to enhance cross-border communication and share ideas. The group included Rick and John, and Jim Brangan; Kristy Kennedy of the Chamber also presented. Key discoveries included - The Battle of Plattsburgh/War of 1812 is big in Canada; the Wine Trail is a big hit; the Lois McClure journey to NY/VT/Ontario/Quebec ports had over 15K visitors.
- Jim Brangan spoke about the LCBP/CVNHP approved budget for 2014, RFP grant deadline of Nov 14. More discussion next meeting about bilingual pamphlets, BOP, Plays/Skits, youth and history connecting through the arts.
- Historical/heritage tourism was discussed, with Tammy mentioning a group from Nova Scotia visiting for BOPA week in 2014. Helen mentioned a November meeting in Albany discussing this; Geri described an initiative to identify and locate all historic markers and interpretive panels to better guide tourists (with John, Barb, Jim and Geri volunteering for that effort).
- Chamber update – Amber provided an update, sharing the media kit; key 2014 dates (Front Desk Training May 28, Day of Caring April 5), beach volleyball, geocaching, coordination with SUNY Plattsburgh, United Way, etc. Be sure to provide her with your brochures.

#### General - Events Update

- The Alice - Amanda is looking into an AED (defibrillator) for the Alice. Jim thought funding may be available. Ricky will look into funding and training.
- Kent Delord -Don reflected that he is excited to be at Kent Delord. One possibility for increasing historical awareness could be newspaper articles, as his Civil War series in the Vermont Herald was well received. KDL will be open Dec 7-8 for Caring & Sharing open house, with the holiday Secret House Tour on December 15.
- Clinton County Historical – Melissa detailed the new exhibit ‘Compliments of the Season’ opening to the public December 14 (the 7<sup>th</sup> for members) showing winter traditions in the North Country.
- PSU Arts – Samantha mentioned the Pop Culture in Japan exhibit and upcoming lecture.
- NCUGRHA – Jackie encouraged all to see the new movie, ‘12 Years a Slave’ about Solomon Northup, a free black man living in Saratoga Springs who was enslaved. A local showing includes post-screening discussion. A spaghetti dinner benefit for the museum is in November.

Next meeting – December 12, 2013, 8 am, Battle of Plattsburgh/War of 1812 Museum

Motion to adjourn by Don; seconded by John. Meeting adjourned at 9:38 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Benkwitt  
Secretary