

Minutes of the Adirondack Coast Cultural Alliance Meeting, October 12, 2017



President Ellen Adams called the meeting to order at 8:37 am, Thursday, October 12, 2017, at the Lyon Mountain Mining Railroad and Museum in Lyon Mountain in Plattsburgh. Thank you for the hospitality, refreshments and tour of your new exhibits!

Present: Ellen Adams (ATM, pres.), Barb Benkwitt (Town of Schuyler Falls, Sec'y), Julie Dowd (CCHA & NNYACGS/Genealogy), Jane Saxe-Kelting (Lyon Mountain Museum), Claire Kowolowski (Lyon Mountain Museum Board), Helen Nerska (CCHA & NNYACGS/Genealogy), Melissa Peck (coordinator, MLPBS).

The **minutes** of the September 14th meeting were distributed and approved without changes, Julie moved and Melissa seconded.

There was no **treasurer's report** – please send in your dues as soon as possible so that we know how much is available for special purchases for Museum Weekend, etc. Moneys received now are for calendar year 2018. All organizations and municipalities should have received a letter as well as a reminder sent by coordinator Melissa Peck. Ideas for use of the funds included flags with the ACCA logo that could be displayed at venues, 'political-style signs' for venues open on Museum Weekend, and so forth.

Melissa presented the **coordinator's report** (included as the last page of these notes).

Highlights included a recap of grants available, NYS History Month in November, special open houses on Veterans' Day weekend, downtown Plattsburgh Holiday Parade on December 2, and more. Please continue to send events to Melissa for posting on the website and Facebook. Check out also courses that are available through the Documentary Heritage Preservation Services for NY (DHPSNY).

Path Thru History Weekend in October –

Macdonough Monument opening – CCHA was ready to open the monument but the weather was tentative and so it didn't happen. Hoping that this city-owned monument will get funds to at least restore the door.

Other events – Niki Kourofsky is speaking Oct 12 at the Alice T Miner Museum on her book on Adirondack Outlaws.

New Historic Marker Program –

Barb mentioned the recent Press-Republican article on October 3, 2017.

http://www.pressrepublican.com/news/local_news/city-unveils-historic-signs/article_da6a2cbd-0a89-527f-a98f-03c4bc3b99e3.html

In talking with Anastasia Pratt, County Historian, this public/private partnership started in the city, and in the future there are funds for other municipalities to develop walking trails for similar signs. Contact Anastasia for more information. Those present commented that though there was a committee working on this at the start, it had disbanded. There was concern about the French translations not including needed accents, and not being consistent with the translations prepared by the Chamber.

CVNHP International Summit in Lake George, LCBP Implementation Grants

Melissa and Ellen will be going to the summit on October 23.

Museum Reports – none as the season is winding down

General discussion –

The remainder of the meeting included discussion about going forward, how to encourage more to participate in meetings, and 2018's Museum Weekend planning.

Ideas and comments included: Should ACCA be more front-facing, a leader organization, or should it be behind the scenes. Calendar sharing to coordinate activities is important, as is leveraging connections and co-promotion. Ways to encourage all of us to share info and talk with each other. How to reach out to more organizations/people. The Chamber will again be preparing the Passport and prep work will be done earlier this coming year.

The idea of having an evening mixer in December and not having a meeting in November was decided by acclamation. The January meeting was considered to be held (on Jan. 18) but then decided better to have a kick-off for the year with the **February 8th meeting** will be a Planning meeting – collaborating to develop and encourage a strong history and arts community. ***All organizations are requested to bring their 2018 event calendars so as to encourage cooperation and synergies across venues through complementary projects.***

Ellen prepared a flyer to promote the December meeting that Melissa then distributed.

Get-Together Thurs., December 14th, 5-7 pm Ground Round, Smithfield Blvd, Plattsburgh

The December event was held as planned. A very good time was had by all. The food was delicious and it was good to share info and updates. Attending were Ellen Adams, Julie Dowd, Helen Nerska, Geri Favreau (who distributed copies of the Lakes to Locks book), Jane Kelting and husband Bill, Jackie Madison, Barb Benkwitt, Leni Vradelis (others?). Highlight of the evening was drawing this year's Passport winners – Grand Prize: A Night on the Town – William D. Ferguson of US Oval, Plattsburgh; A Taste of Town: Lyon Mountain – Aya Higgins from Plattsburgh; and Adirondack Coast Basket – Ari Meixler, Wilmington MA. The total number of entries was 12 (or was it 9?) - the most ever turned in.

Next meeting – Thursday February 8, 2018 – 8:30 am at CCHA, Ohio Ave, Plattsburgh
Please bring your calendars so we can all share significant dates for already-planned events.
Thanks!!

Respectfully submitted,



Barb Benkwitt
Secretary, ACCA