

Minutes of the Adirondack Coast Cultural Alliance Meeting, September 14, 2017



President Ellen Adams called the meeting to order at 8:37 am, Thursday, September 14, 2017, at the North Country Chamber of Commerce in Plattsburgh.

Present: Ellen Adams (ATM, pres.), Karen Batchelder (CEFLS), Julie Dowd (CCHA & NNYACGS/Genealogy), Melissa Peck (coordinator, MLPBS), Alina Walentowicz (Chamber & Visitor Bureau).

The **minutes** of the August 10th meeting were distributed and approved without changes; Melissa moved and Julie seconded.

Alina presented the **financial report**. There have been no incoming or outgoing funds since the last meeting. Our balance remains at \$2546.

Melissa presented the **coordinator's report**. Some additional attendance numbers for Museum Weekend have been received, bringing the current attendance total up to 1700. If you have not yet submitted your attendance figures to Melissa, please do so! Melissa also announced two professional development opportunities. Lakes to Locks Passage will be hosting a roundtable titled "Cultivating Volunteers and Staff into Ambassadors" on Friday, October 6 from 10 am to 3 pm at Plattsburgh City Hall. This workshop is intended for staff, volunteers, and board members from museums, historical societies, libraries, and other community organizations. Topics include volunteer recruitment, training and management, customer service, and collaboration. The cost is \$15 per person, which includes lunch. Registration is required. To register contact Margaret Gibbs at mgibbs@lakestolocks.org. On Thursday, October 12, the Adirondack Coast Visitors Bureau will be holding two free marketing seminars focusing on branding and social media. The seminar runs from 10 am to 12 pm. ACCA members are encouraged to attend this program after our meeting that morning! Contact Alina to register.

Battle of Plattsburgh Commemoration and Macdonough Monument opening – Julie reported on some of the events of Battle of Plattsburgh weekend. Although the monument was only open for three hours on Saturday due to rain, they made a total of \$200. Julie also noted that the DPW had not cleaned the monument as they were expected to, and that there are areas of the monument that are in need of attention. There are cracks at the base and the bronze doors need restoration. She is going to speak to Sandra Geddes about putting the money that was collected toward a maintenance/restoration fund. CCHA is also going to recommend that next year all events should be held downtown, instead of moving to other venues such as the Oval for part of the weekend. There is also a general feeling that two days of events would probably be sufficient.

Path Thru History Weekend – October 7-9 – on Columbus Day weekend. If your museum is holding any special events for this weekend, please let Melissa know so that she can publicize them through ACCA. CCHA will be opening the monument on Saturday, October 7. If there continues to be a PTH weekend in October, museums might want to look for ways to collaborate with local businesses on fall-themed events, rather than trying to compete with orchards and

other venues. Alina noted that the three major tourist draws to this region are history, outdoor recreation, and agritourism, and it would be to our benefit to look for ways that we can combine those elements into a single visitor experience.

Museum Reports –

Just a few notes on upcoming events. CCHA will be hosting their “Out of the Attic” antiques and quilt appraisal on Saturday, September 23 from 10 am to 1 pm at the City of Plattsburgh Recreation Center. On Thursday, September 28, CCHA and the Alice are co-sponsoring a talk by James Carson on the 16th New York Volunteer Cavalry and the local men who helped hunt down John Wilkes Booth. This event will be held at the Saranac Town Hall at 7 pm. The Northern New York American-Canadian Genealogical Society will be holding its fall conference on Saturday, September 30 from 10 am to 3 pm at the Civic Center in Dannemora. NNYAGS will also be hosting a cemetery tour of Ausable Forks in October.

Meeting adjourned 9:27 am.

NEXT MEETING –

Thursday, October 12th, 8:30am – Lyon Mountain Mining and Railroad Museum.

The November meeting will be at the Schuyler Falls Town Hall in Morrisonville.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen

Ellen Adams
President, ACCA