ADIRONDACK COAST CULTURAL ALLIANCE

April 11, 2013 Meeting

Ricky Laurin, Chair, convened the meeting at the War of 1812 Museum at 8:00 am on Thursday, April 11, 2013. Present were Ricky Laurin, John Kruger, Lisa LaFountain, Bob Harvey, Barb Benkwitt, Jim Bailey, Bill Glidden, Jane Saxe-Kelting, John Krueger, Connie Mandeville, Tammy Brown, Jim Brangan, and Helen Nerska.

The meeting began with a brief discussion by John Kruger and Bob Harvey on the Destination Masterplan. There is a great deal of essential history in the area and it is important to create more resources. An idea being discussed to bring visitors in and get involved in history is to recreate full functioning vessels. They would be self-sustaining and paid for by visitors. Another idea is to have a trolley and connect destinations. Museums and history organizations should be connecting with the hospitality groups as well as get involved with the destination plans.

Financial Report Updates: Discussion was held regarding the Bus Transportation for Museum Days. Jim Branigan never received the letter requesting the funding for the buses. Ricky will send to Tammy to be forwarded on to Jim.

We received our $2500 Grant, however we owed Susanna $1141.00 which she has been paid. That leaves us with a remaining balance to work with of $1473.00. Tammy will need to be paid out of the remaining amount so it is important that we collect the dues from all the historians and museums to make sure that we complete the passport, and our booth at the Clinton County Fair and any other expenses that may occur throughout the year.

Passport Committee Update: The Chamber of Commerce has agreed to donate $1000 toward the Passport for next year. Ricky will be donating one week at his camp on Lake Champlain. Titus Mountain is donating a package this year and their full page ad. Hearts Delight will be joining us this year in the passport. Underground Railroad asked if their name can be on their logo.Tammy will get a list from Anastasia Pratt of all the current historians to send out a letter requesting a $25 donation from all the historians.

Clinton County Fair Update: We are still a go for the Clinton County Fair this year, we will be using both booths again. The cost is $260 ($130 per spot). Tammy will be spearheading this project.

Path through History Website Updates: Helen reminded everyone to get their events for Museum Days listed on the states Path thru History Website asap. She will email the link to Tammy and Tammy will forward it out to all the Alliance Members. A question came up from Jane wanting to know if the Dannemora/Lyon Mtn region shows on their map or not.

WIRY: Ricky heard a commentary by Ducky at WIRY on the previous Saturday were he stated that the region does not need a larger tourist industry, going in to details. He then went on to say that what Plattsburgh needs is more manufacturing type jobs with better paying positions. Ricky was so disappointed to hear this as we all work so hard to promote our history and tourism programs. Jim Brannigan pointed out that the Vermont Department of Tourism just released a study that showed that some of the best paying jobs in the state are held by tourism staff. Tammy will call WIRY and discuss this with them and find out why this was done.

Jim said he would like any proposals for projects for 2014. Tammy mentioned that it would be nice to hold a regional 2-3 day museum educators workshop for Museum Staff in this area. Jim loved the idea and asked her to send a proposal as soon as possible.

It was discussed that our biggest need is for brochure distribution throughout our own region and reaching out to Glens Falls, Saratoga, Albany, NYC, Burlington and possible Montreal. North Country Distribution holds the rights to all the racks for brochures, and his cost are huge for delivery. It was suggested that ACCA might develop one brochure that shows all the participating museums that can be delivered through him and pay one price. Jim was asked if there is funding available to help with these costs, he suggesting sending in a proposal for 2014.

The Riverside Grave Yard: A suggestion was made that we might want to contact the Riverside Grave Yard and do a Historical Walk for visitors to help raise funds for the museum. Have the PSU Theatre Dept provide the actors and costumes. There would be an actor for the graves that are selected. They would dress like the deceased and talk about their lives and etc. Charge $10 for each person. Portland, Maine has a program like this ..check it out on their city website.

Trading Cards Update: Jim mentioned that he is completing the Trading Cards and is looking for any photos that help tell our history/the history that is told in your museums or by your towns. These photos can help share your story. Email him for more information.

Discussion came about regarding history immersion. BOPA is already doing the boot-camp in conjunction with the Chamber. It is becoming very successful. Gives us a potential for more re-enactors.   
  
 Discussion was held about the plans for the Interpretive Center at the beach. Many question why its being put up there, when we already have a museum campus here. And the focus has gone away from this area. Originally the plan was to make this the premier historical destination for museum lovers.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 am and the next meeting will take place on Thursday, May 9, 2013 at 8:00 am at the War of 1812 Museum.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa LaFountain

Secretary