

# Minutes of the Adirondack Coast Cultural Alliance Meeting, April 14, 2016



President Ellen Adams called the meeting to order at 8:34am, Thursday, April 14, 2016 at the Alice T. Miner Museum in Chazy (thanks, Ellen, for hosting on such a beautiful day, with coffee/snacks!!).

Present: Ellen Adams (Alice T. Miner Museum, ACCA prez), Karen Batchelder (CEFLS), Samantha Bellinger (PSU-Art, ACCA VP), Barb Benkwitt (Schuyler Falls Town, ACCA sec'y), Karen Dispo-DeBoos (Strand Center for Arts development director), Julie Dowd (NNYAC Genealogy), Kristy Kennedy (Chamber/Visitors' Bureau), Ricky Laurin (ATM+ACCApast-prez), Helen Nerska (CCHA), Melissa Peck (CCHA, ACCA Coordinator), Stan Ransom (CV Transportation & Kids' Station), Jane Saxe-Kelting (Lyon Mountain Friends/Museum), Alina Walentowicz (Visitors' Bureau).

Introductions and special welcome to Alina Walentowicz from the Visitors' Bureau (her 2nd meeting) and to Karen Dispo-Diboos the new development coordinator from the Strand (her first meeting). The minutes of the March 10th meeting were approved on motion (Stan motioned, Helen seconded). There was no treasurer's report - nothing unusual, still waiting for \$500 from LCBP, per Helen. Helen did say that the CCHA Board of Directors, at their last meeting, approved CCHA continuing as the umbrella organization for ACCA finances. Thank you, Helen and CCHA! Melissa presented the coordinator's report – The year-end report and invoice to LCBP was submitted. Included in the report was information from the following groups - Visitor Center, Alice T. Miner, Babbie Farm, CCHA, North Star Underground Railroad, Plattsburgh State Arts, Samuel D. Champlain History Center, city historian – thanks! For Museum Weekend our reported attendance figures were down a little bit but there were no numbers reported this year from Battle of Plattsburgh or the Air Force Base Museums, and they usually draw about 400 people those weekends. For the past three years (earliest to last year) were 2290, 2754 and 2193 (last year). Grants – The Noon Kiwanis announced grants available (\$2K-\$10K) specifically targeting youth (see the recent email from Melissa). IMLS (*Institute of Museum and Library Services*) and FAIC (*Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation*) consolidated grants will now have a Fall, 2016 deadline for award in 2017 - for conserving objects or art, or assessment of conservation, up to \$5000. Watch the website for professional development. Send events to Melissa for the ACCA website.

## Old Business –

- Most on the Coast (April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10a-4p, Crete Center) – The ACCA table is reserved, set up is Friday 4/22 noon. Samantha and Jane coordinating – Contact them to assist. Ricky and Ellen volunteered; CCHA and Genealogy will also be there. Sam to coordinate with Alina at the Chamber to get the brochures and holders, banners, and coloring books from the CoC shed to use at the MOTC. If anyone has last year's Passports – please get them to the Crete so they can be passed out.
- **Brochures – Kristy mentioned the Chamber needs new/more brochures for all organizations for this tourist season. Contact Kristy or Alina, or bring them to the May ACCA meeting for Kristy.**
- Passport and Museum weekend – The Passport should be ready May 9 or maybe May 11. Kristy will bring some to the next ACCA meeting. Since Hospitality training is May 25 and Destination Downtown is May 22 when the monument will be open, the Passports will be available. Regarding first weekends Melissa and Ellen will work together to coordinate with that group. Melissa will coordinate with the Press-Republican - Nate Ovalle for features article and George Rock for ads (after Kristy connects with George) so that ACCA will still have the full page ad and publicity for Museum Weekend.

- Lake Champlain Weekly – Stan’s article should run next week for April. Ellen will write an article for May regarding museum weekend. June will be Karen from the Strand promoting Jumping in July. July - Sam will do an article on the arts. August the chamber or Don or other can do a Battle of Plattsburgh article. October tentative for something on Women’s Suffrage – 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017.
- CVNHP/LCBP - Jim Brangan (via Melissa) asks folks to submit project ideas for 2018's theme - Making of Nations. Projects that impact many groups or areas are looked on most favorably. Submit project ideas to Melissa who will consolidate and forward to Jim. (See last month’s meeting notes for background.)

#### New Business –

- Annual Meeting – Election of Officers – April is ACCA’s annual meeting month. Terms of officers are staggered. The only term ending this year is John Krueger’s term on the Board of Directors. By motion from Barb, second by Julie, with acclamation the group – John Krueger is respectfully nominated and voted in for continuation of his term for another three years. John was not present to accept or decline. We will see what he says!
- Downtown window displays - Helen is willing to coordinate with the Downtown Business Association if there are historical, arts and cultural organizations willing to dress up the vacant windows in downtown so it looks better. A recent letter to the editor bemoaned that vacant windows in downtown were uninviting. PSU Arts, ATM and Lyon Mountain expressed support and interest. Helen will draft a project description to better define, and see who wants to participate in this volunteer effort so t she can easily present this to the Downtown Business Association. Watch for more info and/or contact Helen if interested.
- ACCA/CVHN (Essex County) joint meeting – the consensus is to do this on Wednesday May 18 (morning). Ellen will coordinate with Karyn from AARCH where meeting would be held. A notice will be sent out as to specifics. Cooperation and sharing is advantageous to all. This would be in addition to our May meeting on May 12.
- Training Opportunity – Barb shared an email from Lakes-to-Locks - a Collections Care Workshop will be Monday May 9 in Ticonderoga from 9-4, presented by folks from the State Archives. Free, lunch \$10. Email Margaret Gibbs to register [mgibbs@lakestolocks.org](mailto:mgibbs@lakestolocks.org) . See also the email on other classes just sent.

#### Museum Reports -

*Alice T. Miner Museum* – ATM is partnering with the Chazy School to celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary October 21, 2016. [Ricky]

*CCHA* – The museum may be closed to visitors much of May, as the front entrance is being renovated. Researchers are welcome by appointment during that time. Outreach programs off-site will continue. Watch for updated press releases/information. [Melissa]

Helen mentioned a reception upcoming at Irises to remember Stephen Booker who had recently passed away. He was a well-known artist, poet, graphic designer, and involved with the North Star Underground Railroad. Also – Helen and Ellen among others are on a Suffrage committee to determine how to commemorate/recognize the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women’s suffrage. The October/November LCW would be a good place to share family stories of those in Plattsburgh who fought for the cause, Kit Booth’s grandmother being one. Fanny Hall, who died in 1913, was involved with the WCTU. There must be others. Ken Burns’ work on One Woman/One Vote, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony

were also mentioned.

*CEFLS – Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System* – Participated in Get Ready To Learn in March at CCC. Well-attended and received – lots one can do with paper plates! Possible similar event in Essex County in May. June 10<sup>th</sup> – literary luncheon at the Butcher Block with Niki Kourofsky of *Adirondack Life*. [Karen]

*Kent Delord House Museum* – Opening day is May 3. The Gold Parlor is back to 1928. The History Happy Hour is scheduled for Thursday, April 28, from 5-8pm (\$15 members, \$20 non-members) - an opportunity for mingling, food, beverages, and history. The program is by Erick Tichonuk of Lake Champlain Maritime Museum on “Tale of Three Gunboats” in commemoration of the Battle of Valcour Island (240<sup>th</sup> anniversary). The “Key to Liberty” LCMM traveling exhibition will open that day. Tickets still available. Planning is underway for Museum Days and the Battle of Plattsburgh. [Don]

*Plattsburgh State Arts* – Pre-school program meets monthly on Tuesdays (April 19). Friday Apr 22 Ken Wibecan will be reading poetry in the Sculpture Garden. The Sculpture Park will be featured on Adirondack Journal/PBS. School tours for 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be May 16-20 and 23-27. Senior outreach to nursing homes is May 10-17-24. [Samantha]

*Strand Center for Arts* – The Brown Bag sessions with music midday Fridays in the gallery continues. Middle and high school displays are in the gallery. A new education/outreach coordinator has been hired! [Karen]

*Visitors’ Bureau/Chamber* – Hospitality training is May 25 at CVT. Call the Chamber to register (Alyssa).

Julie mentioned that Nate Ovalle of the P-R has learned of a Walt Whitman letter discovered in the National Archives related to a local Civil War vet named Robare Narcisse Gibeau (or Nelson Jabo, Robert Gebo), who enlisted here, deserted and then lived in New Hampshire. If anyone knows anything about this person please contact Nate. Also a suggestion – please ‘like’ each other on Facebook, Twitter, etc to increase PR and visibility.

Ricky moved, Stan seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:32 am.

**NEXT MEETING – Thursday, May 12, 2016, 8:30 am.**

**At The Strand Theater, Plattsburgh - 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Stafford Room. Enter through front doors on Brinkerhoff Street, inside then up the stairs on either right or left to meeting room at the front.**

*(Note – June 9<sup>th</sup> 8:30 meeting is planned for Schuyler Falls Town Hall, 997 Mason St, Morrisonville)*

Respectfully submitted,

*Barb*

Barb Benkwitt  
Secretary, ACCA