

Minutes of the Adirondack Coast Cultural Alliance Meeting, December 10, 2015



President Ellen Adams called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m. on Thursday, December 10, 2015 at the Kent-Delord House Museum in Plattsburgh (beautifully decorated for the season! Thanks Don, for hosting.).

In attendance were Ellen Adams (ATM+ACCA President), Samantha Bellinger (PSU-Art), Barb Benkwitt (Schuyler Falls Town+ACCA Secretary), Julie Dowd (NNYACGS+CCHA), Geri Favreau (CCHA), John Krueger (Plattsburgh City), Ricky Laurin (ATM+community), Amber Parliament (CoC/Visitors Bureau), Melissa Peck (CCHA+ ACCA Coordinator), Stan Ransom (CVT), Emily Sullivan (Strand), Don Wickman (KDL).

After introductions all around, the minutes of the November 12 meeting were approved (Stan motioned, Geri seconded; thanks to John Krueger for November's minutes). The treasurer's report shows a balance of \$2116.36 as of December 5, 2015. Income in 2015 is dues/donations of \$650, LCBP grant (\$1500 for 2015, \$450 from 2014), coloring book sales (\$69); expenses for coordinator (with one more month to be paid in 2015). Starting balance Jan 1, 2015 was \$1473.51. \$509 of the balance is restricted use (coloring books). We are in good financial shape. Thanks to all for paying dues.

Melissa presented the coordinator's report – updates to Facebook and the website, posting/sharing some potential opportunities for professional development and grants. She will be looking at using Twitter for events, and continues to forward press releases to all (about 75 email addresses).

Old Business - Articles for the museum corner feature in *The Lake Champlain Weekly* are lined up for through May. March is now the NNYACGS (Genealogy Society), and May will be for Museum Days. See Ellen for additional information.

New Business – The Museum Days Committee consisting of Geri, Ellen, Amber, Sam, Melissa met. Info needed for the Passport by January - an email will be sent to all with the details on each venue and scheduled events for possible inclusion. The Passport will include a map to the venues, possible new prizes/businesses, and drawing on December 1. Since November is New York State History Month, all venues are encouraged to provide free admission on Saturday November 12 (Veterans' Day November 11).

Ellen handed out info on the NY Heritage Project (nyheritage.org) as a way for organizations to share their collections on line. (Prior discussions on using PastPerfect Online showed that would not be workable, and there was a concern about loss of control of images and other challenges.) CEFLS is holding a training session December 11 by NNYLN on Historic Newspapers and the NY Heritage Project (Julie and Barb plan to attend). Ellen encourages us to us this, as currently few Clinton County/northern NY groups/institutions are represented in the NY Heritage database.

Museum Reports -

CCHA – Open house Saturday December 13, 10a-4p; Gordie Little book signing from 1-4 pm. Free. The Civil War gallery is coming down; Clinton County's Industrial Heritage is the new theme, opening in April, 2016. The Town of Clinton exhibit will open in the lower level at the end of January; Geri, Julie and Dianne Lagree/Town Historian coordinating. Two new Board members elected – Bernie Bassett, retiring Town of Plattsburgh Supervisor, and Jules LaPoint (who will work closely on the CCHA porch

renovation construction project). [Melissa]

Plattsburgh State Arts – The Pre-School program continues monthly on Tuesdays. [Samantha]

CV Transportation – The museum is closed from November 1- May 1 as those buildings are not heated. The Kids Station is open (and consolidated with the former Imaginarium) and is open various times/weekends through the winter. [Stan]

Wreaths Across America – Saturday December 13 12 noon at the Old Stone Barracks. [Julie]

Schuyler Falls Town – The Route 22B bridge is open; historic signs on both the Schuyler Falls and Plattsburgh town sides of the bridge commemorate the 1814 skirmish at Wait's Mill. A new historic marker (blue/yellow) marks the site of St. John's Episcopal Mission Chapel (~1874--~1910) on Salmon River Road opposite Dr. Frost's house (near the town line between Schuyler Falls and Plattsburgh). Dedication and talk on the area will be held in the Spring. The 2nd Annual Town Tree Lighting will be Friday December 4th at 5:30 pm. [Barb]

Adirondack Visitors' Bureau/Chamber of Commerce – Looking at combining attractions, lodging and dining to provide visitors a complete experience. Chamber members can participate in a 'packaging party' on February 3 at 9 am to establish relationships. Contact Amber for info.

Museum Campus Signage – The city and LCBP are supporting enhanced signage at the Museum Campus on the Old Base, including Fort Brown. The Mayor, Rachele Armstrong and Saranac River Trail groups are involved. Contact Geri for info; she is coordinating.

HAPAC/Lake Champlain Basin Program – The Heritage Area Program Advisory Committee (HAPAC) met as planned on December 4th. 6 of the 11 Regional Stakeholders attended (plus John Krueger and Celine Paquette) attended. The ranking process and workplans were discussed. Next meeting in January 2016. [John]

Strand Arts and Theater – This being her first ACCA meeting, Emily described her role as education coordinator and making Strand arts more accessible and used by and for people including children. Josh Kretser is the executive director. An upcoming event in the theater is Diana Ross's daughter in December.

Sam moved, John seconded to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:25.

NEXT MEETING – Thursday, January 14, 2016 at Plattsburgh State Arts, Myers 232 / "Fishbowl" (park in lot at the corner between Rugar and Broad Streets, Plattsburgh; display parking pass to be provided).

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Benkwitt
Secretary, ACCA