

Minutes of the Adirondack Coast Cultural Alliance Meeting, February 11, 2016



President Ellen Adams called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m. on Thursday, February 11, 2016 at the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System meeting room, 33 Oak Street, Plattsburgh (thanks to Karen Batchelder for hosting and providing coffee and mini-cinnamon buns!).

Present: Ellen Adams (ATM+ACCA President), Frank Baehre (Plattsburgh Air Force Base Museum), Karen Batchelder (CEFLS), Samantha Bellinger (PSU-Art), Barb Benkwitt (Schuyler Falls Town Historian+ACCA Secretary), Julie Dowd (NNYACGS+CCHA), Geri Favreau (CCHA +), Keith Herkalo (BOPA/War of 1812 Museum; arrived toward the end of the meeting), Ricky Laurin (ATM+community), Melissa Peck (CCHA+ ACCA Coordinator), Stan Ransom (CV Transportation & Kids' Station), Jane Saxe-Kelting (Lyon Mountain Friends/Museum), Don Wickman (KDHM).

The minutes of the January 14th meeting were distributed (had also been emailed the previous evening) and approved on motion (Stan motioned, Don seconded). There was no treasurer's report. Melissa presented the coordinator's report – ACCA's Twitter account is now active, and there are already a goodly number of followers. We follow local organizations, news outlets, and grant programs. See Twitter/ADK_ACCA. Melissa shares ACCA info and re-shares other ACCA member info. On the ACCA Facebook page, we post job announcements, grant/workshop/conference notifications. Keep sending events – there are a lot being submitted for the ACCA website, so please continue!

Old Business –

Museum Corner feature in *The Lake Champlain Weekly* - Ellen apologized for not reminding Jackie about February deadline, so the line-up may shift a month - March or April (Julie), April or June (Stan), May (Museum Weekend). The article is published in the 2nd Wednesday issue in each month, with submittal preferably 10 days prior and certainly by the Friday prior to publication. Contributors are needed for June or July and following – contact Ellen.

Bill Glidden's tribute letter as penned by John Krueger (reviewed by ACCA Board) was printed in the Lake Champlain Weekly and Press-Republican, as a memorial in recognition of Bill's deep impact and love for this community. We miss his enthusiasm. Thanks to John for his writing the letter.

Passport – This year's passport is well on its way; the committee will be meeting shortly again with Kristy Kennedy to finalize the copy. It should be ready for distribution in May. With Amber Parliament's transition, Kristy has jumped back in to coordinate from the Chamber. Karen Batchelder asked if there were any way her Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System could participate in the Passport – they represent 30 member institutions/libraries, 3 reading centers, as well as corrections facilities and nursing homes, etc. A thought was to recognize CEFLS on the back cover (as is done with AARCH, e.g.). Ellen and Melissa will bring that up with Kristy when next they meet, though it might be too late for this year.

Museum Weekend June 4-5, 2016 - Melissa has confirmed with retiring P-R publisher Bob Parks that the P-R will run a full page ad on Museum Weekend this year and smaller ads twice before the weekend. Ellen and Melissa will confirm the future with Bob's replacement, with the expectation that should the P-R not be able to continue, perhaps LCW or Sun Community would.

Most on the Coast (April 23rd, 10a-4p, Crete Center) – Details to be discussed at March meeting; Ellen and Melissa will talk with Bob Parks about sponsoring the ACCA table as last year. Samantha and Jane

have agreed to help but more volunteers appreciated. Set up starts Friday 4/22 noon.

New Business –

- First Weekends – Reconfirming partnership opportunities between groups and First Weekends for May through September, even outside the city limits. Contact Leigh Carter; [518-335-1107](tel:518-335-1107) or email firstweekendsplattsburgh@gmail.com. The ALS Walk may occur on the Oval the Saturday morning of Museum Weekend.
- Discover Service event – Monday, April 11 from 3-6 pm at the City Recreation site on the Oval. Organizations can participate to meet people and encourage them to volunteer for their group. Contact Sandra Geddes, City of Plattsburgh Special Events/Promotions Coordinator at geddess@cityofplattsburgh-ny.gov or (518)536-7458
- Service Learning in French – Melissa will send out the information Margaret Leone of PSU has just provided. Via a proposed Summer Session class (June 6 – July 2) for students, Margaret is seeking organizations to ‘mentor’ students and provide learning experiences/real-life projects for them to translate from English to French. Examples done previously include Underground Railroad’s displays put into French. Margaret’s contact info is: (518) 564-3838; Email: margaret.queguiner@plattsburgh.edu
- 2015 Year End Reports - Input is needed for the year-end report to LCBP and CVNHP, the source of our grant which pays the ACCA coordinator salary. Highlighting 3 or 4 events at your venue in 2015; send the info Melissa Peck at coordinator@adkcoastcultural.org . Already included will be statements about Museum Days/Weekend, the proposed free admission weekend in November to recognize NYS History Month, and the coordinator activities handled.
- COC Packaging Party discussion – A follow-up meeting to the Chamber’s/Visitors Bureau ‘packaging party’ on February 3rd was to occur 2/11, just after the ACCA meeting. Don Wickman, Julie Dowd, and Samantha Bellinger were at the Feb 3rd meeting, which was trying to link attractions with lodging so that the lodging could offer ‘packages’ to their guests – entrance fees, dinners, etc. along with the accommodations at an all-inclusive rate. Having a theme for the package seemed important to even engage the lodging units to want to offer a package, like ‘Historic’, ‘Education’. Having the lodging facilities display brochures was also discussed. Don will check with Kristy about which venues would take our brochures (if they don’t have a paid service already which would preclude free distribution). The question remains will the Chamber distribute brochures to hotels if the attraction is not a Chamber member but only an ACCA member. What about cross-promotions. And will the Passports be placed in hotels by the chamber. More to follow; no clear direction or if there is a need to be satisfied.

Museum Reports -

CCHA –Feb 17 is a Snowball Series event (coordinated via City Rec Dept.) – at CCHA there will be a Behind-The-Scenes tour – only 15 spots, 11-12:30, please pre-register. The Town of Clinton exhibit is to open in March.) [Melissa]

Plattsburgh State Arts – Pre-school program meets monthly on Tuesdays. Feb 11 – Exhibit opens by Pete Russom -PSU faculty/painter; Feb 19 is the grand opening from 4-7 pm, Burke Gallery. There is also a painting/family workshop Feb 19. March 4 - Friends of Art Luncheon, [Samantha]

CV Transportation – The museum will re-open April 1, but tours can be arranged through Dick Soper by

calling 566-7575. The museum is exploring partnering and interacting with the schools and transportation businesses in the area. The Imaginarium/Kids Station is open Tuesdays – Saturdays and some Sundays, and has been very popular as a creative birthday party venue. [Stan]

Lyon Mountain – Author Martin Podskoch will be there Saturday 1 pm June 4 during Museum Weekend. He has several books out, including one on towns in the Adirondacks. Other groups interested in him presenting during that weekend please contact Martin directly – he is available. Contact Podskoch@comcast.net; 860-267-2442. He will be staying at Jane’s home.

Kent Delord House Museum – Don hosted a Travel writer, as arranged by the Chamber. Exhibit and event planning for the upcoming season is underway; seeking grant assistance. [Don]

AARCH– a Preserve NY and Technical Assistance Grant seminar is Friday February 19 in Saranac Lake. Reservations needed; please contact Karyn Norwood at AARCH. Already planning on attending are Helen, Ellen, Geri, Melissa, Don. [Reported by Don for Karyn]

North Star Underground Railroad Museum – A talk will be presented on Feb 20th on the graphic designs of slaves as imprinted on Confederate money. [Reported by Stan]

Plattsburgh Air Force Base Museum – This season’s opening will be May 1st; at least one new exhibit will be on display. [Frank]

War of 1812 Museum/BOPA – A planning meeting (open to the public) will be held on February 17th at 7 pm. With the Battle of Plattsburgh 200th anniversary in the past, the museum will consider new emphases, goals and exhibits in light of what could be declining support. The Battle of Plattsburgh Festivities are now under the City’s purview. Museum opening set for May 1st, with a new exhibit. [Keith]

Alice T. Miner Museum – Becca Belton has departed; a Part-time position is opening for Program coordinator, more info when posted [Ellen]

Don moved, Ricky seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:44 am.

NEXT MEETING – Thursday, March 10, 2016, 8:30 am.
County Office Building, 137 Margaret St, Plattsburgh
1st floor Community Meeting Room
(With your back to DMV, at beginning of hall ahead, on right)

Respectfully submitted,


Barb Benkwitt
Secretary, ACCA