

Minutes of the Adirondack Coast Cultural Alliance Meeting, January 12, 2017



Secretary Barb Benkwitt called the meeting to order at 8:39am, Thursday, January 12, 2017 at the Schuyler Falls Town Hall in Morrisonville. Thanks for hospitality and a bright, easy-access facility! (*Our pleasure! /secy.*)

Present: Barb Benkwitt (Schuyler Falls Town), Geri Favreau (CCHA), Jane Saxe-Kelting (Lyon Mountain RXR+) John Krueger (CVNHP), Ricky Laurin (ATM, CCRS, community, past-president), Melissa Peck (ACCA coordinator),

The **minutes** of the December 8th meeting were corrected in that Whitney was not present but Jan McCormick of Alice T. Miner was. With those changes, minutes approved on motion (John motioned, Ricky seconded).

Melissa reported on the **financial status** in Alina's absence (feel better, Alina!!). As of year-end 2016 and since the Chamber took over the financials in August, only dues have been received, those from Babbie, Lyon Mountain, and Alice T. Miner Museums, and from John Krueger. Expenditures totaled \$422.50 for Melissa's time, with 2 invoices owing (per Melissa). The ACCA balance then is \$1249.55, plus \$69 for coloring books. Ricky pointed out that in 2014 the coloring book balance was \$389 on the 2014 profit/loss statement he had in hand. Barb showed \$69 coloring books on the 2015 year end profit/loss statement. It appears the coloring book account should show at least \$389+\$69. Thus – action is requested to reconcile the total monies for year-ends 2014-2015-2016 and total monies in hand now. Discussion followed about coloring books and why that income is tracked separately; it is for possible future book development as agreed at the outset of the project. Suggestions to get more books into the community included offering the coloring books to all 4th and/or 7th graders, actively promoting the coloring books to restaurants, ACCA member groups, and more. The reduced pricing for bulk (25 cents each for 100 or more) books was motioned/accepted and implemented last month. Discussion tabled and referred to the new Outreach Committee to develop a marketing plan for getting more coloring books out into the community.

Barb asked the agenda as printed to be suspended in order to act on the open position of Vice President. John Krueger has now volunteered to be the ACCA Vice President. Barb called for a vote to name John Krueger Vice President. Hearing no opposition – only acclamation – John Krueger is now Vice President and presided over the remainder of the meeting. Congratulations and thank you!

Melissa's **coordinator's report** – Continue to check your emails for announcements throughout the month. Of note from recent emails – the Path Thru History (PTH) website will now take registration of events for the June 17-18 weekend which is also our Museum Weekend with PTH providing farther reaching publicity for us. If questions or for help – contact Melissa or the Chamber who provided initial PTH training. CVHN – Essex County stakeholder group – will hold a special meeting on suffrage on Wednesday, January 18th at 10am at the Adirondack History Museum in Elizabethtown. AARCH received a \$280,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Fund to develop a pedestrian walkway along the Ausable River in Keeseville. A Documentary Heritage grant for strategic planning opens on January 18th. The Stewart's Holiday Match grant applications are due January 31. Stewarts also has other grant/funding opportunities detailed on their website. MANY (Museum Association of NY) professional development travel grants opened at 10 am January 10. The MANY conference is April 2-4 in Saratoga Springs, and is called “Museum Trifecta – Inspire Experiment Transform. The Destination Master Plan meeting is April 6th, the first Thursday in April. Those present suggest that ACCA meet on April 6 to coincide and contribute to the DMP (rather than the 2nd Thursday). CCHA will host the February meeting on February 9.

Old Business –

ACCA Membership – as above in Treasurer's report. All organizations are encouraged to pay these 2017 dues as soon as possible so that there are funds to pay for 'extras' as committees propose.

New committees – The purpose of each of the 3 committees was reviewed and confirmed. Current members and plans are listed. Contact Ellen to volunteer if energized; 3 or more person committees will be okay:

PASSPORT – Ricky Laurin, Alina Walentowicz, Jane Saxe-Kelting, Melissa Peck. Meeting tentative for Tuesday January 16 as the first draft of the Passport (including events list and prizes) is due by end of January. Note – each participating organization needs to review/submit updates ASAP. Ricky to connect with Alina for coordination. All should please review last year's passport and submit updates to Melissa via coordinator@adkcoastcultural.org. Further info may follow.

OUTREACH – John Krueger, Ricky Laurin, CCHA Rep(s)- Geri Favreau to determine who from CCHA

EVENTS – Alina Walentowicz, Ellen Adams, Barb Benkwitt

CVNHP Update – John Krueger reported on the CVNHP meeting held January 4th. ACCA was represented by John, Celine Paquette, and Julie Dowd (in place of Ellen who was unavailable as was Melissa due to work schedule. Melissa noted that next year she expects to be allowed time off Mountain Lake PBS to attend as ACCA coordinator if situation is the same. She had attended sessions previously.) 8 of the 10 coordinators were present – a higher number than previously. Jim Brangan reviewed the work list, and then they went through a grading process. Lively and productive discussion ensued with the resulting list being endorsed by this representative group. The next steps before final approval and funding are: Steering committee meeting on Grand Isle week of January 16; 2 wks. later (early Feb.) – another steering committee meeting in Grand Isle; 1 wk after that /mid-February – a final presentation with financing approved (in Lake Placid at Crowne Plaza).

The expectation is that by ACCA's March 9th meeting Jim Brangan should be able to present the final work plan. (Location needed for March and following meetings....)

New Business –

General discussion and sharing of opportunities and challenges of local museums - Boards, writing grants, succession planning, staffing, funding, 'ownership', energizing volunteers. No answers, but good discussion which continued long after meeting closed. We all face similar as well as dissimilar situations!

Museum Reports –

Alice T. Miner Museum –Brewing Up History event is January 19; February 9th will be talks about historical artifacts, featuring Ricky as one of the two speakers and likely discussing an artifact from the old school. [Ricky]

Clinton County Historical Association/Museum – February 4th will feature making Valentines to be sent to deployed soldiers. M/W/F February 20-22-24 the museum will feature events for the Snowball celebration during school break week. [Geri]

Lyon Mountain Mining and Railroad Museum – There's excitement and significant effort every week as volunteers prepare the new exhibit on World War I and beyond. It will open when the museum opens in June, and feature uniforms, memorabilia, etc. There's a lot there! The "Museum Corner" article Jane wrote about the World War I experience of her Dad appeared in the December 21 issue of Lake Champlain Weekly. [Jane]

NEXT MEETING –

Thursday, February 9th, 8:30am – Clinton County Historical Association, 98 Ohio Avenue, Plattsburgh.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb

Barb Benkwitt

Secretary, ACCA