



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

President Ellen Adams called the meeting to order at 8:36am, Thursday, July 14, 2016 at the Plattsburgh State Arts 'fishbowl', 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Myers. Thanks, Samantha, for hosting and for snacks!

Present: Ellen Adams (Alice T. Miner Museum, ACCA president), Samantha Bellinger (PSU Arts), Barb Benkwitt (Schuyler Falls Town), Geri Favreau (CCHA), Julie Dowd (CCHA and NNYACGS), Jane Saxe-Kelting (Lyon Mountain Museum), Stan Ransom (Champlain Valley Transportation).

The minutes of the June 9th meeting were approved on motion (Sam motioned, Julie seconded). There was no treasurer's report. Melissa was not present for a coordinator's report due to the Civil War camp at the Museum.

### **Old Business –**

Museum weekend – June 4-5, 2016 – Melissa asked Ellen to remind all that Melissa is still waiting for attendance numbers from a few museums for Museum Weekend. Jane said she thought the Lyon Mountain museum had good attendance; Stan thought that the Transportation museum had about 300 this year, down from the 400-500 of previous years. Others had said attendance was down but those attending were very interested and asked good questions.

Suggestions for next year – offer new activities? Have a theme that all museums could hang on? Provide food/drink? Perhaps incorporate Lego activities? Scavenger hunt? TicTacToe? Link with PSU? Lyon Mountain is prepping their new exhibit on WWI anniversary (and including WWII). A possible theme?

It was noted that again in 2017, Museum Weekend's Saturday is the same day as DozerFest which this year drew 2000 people. (First full weekend in June is June 3-4, 2017.)

### **New Business –**

Battle of Plattsburgh weekend – Plans are firming up (meeting is July 14 also). Champlain Valley Search and Rescue proposes a 'race to the top', which will be held Sunday at 10 am. *[Updated info per Julie]* Suggestion is that ACCA open the monument on Saturday. So far, Jane volunteered; Ellen could only do Sunday; Julie to coordinate. **\*\*Discuss and firm up at next ACCA meeting (to avoid last minute set up as happened with Mayors Cup).**

Press-Republican photo book digitization - Both ATM and CCHA will host scanning sessions July 19/21 respectively. Seems like an interesting idea. Strive for wide representation of the county. Questions about retaining copyright – seems ok? Encourage all to participate, including town historians.

Path Thru History website - Kristy from the Chamber encourages all attractions in the area to set up access and include their events on the site. Currently not many North Country venues participate. Contact Kristy for information. Discussed new road signage near the airport promoting attractions in the area. Geri said she advocated for that with Plattsburgh Town Supervisor Michael Cashman, he took action, and the signs were put up by the airport, with signs near Cumberland Head also planned. Encourage others to advocate for signage where appropriate.

**\*\* Ellen will talk with Kristy and/or the Airport Manager about brochures/signage in the airport terminal.**

New York History Month – Suggest all venues to offer free admission for Veterans' Day Friday, and Saturday November 12, to encourage more visitors.

Other Discussion –

Jane asked about the matching of PSU History students to internship projects. Dr. Gary Kroll, chair of the department, coordinates this, with likely matching in the Fall. \*\*Ellen will talk with Gary to coordinate any plans. Jane said she has some needs for digitizing, etc. – Lyon Mountain could use help.

Museum Hack is a newly-formed online group that provides social media assistance, unconventional tours to target millennials, and ghost writers for social media. Google for more info (plus see email sent).

Museum Reports -

Alice T. Miner Museum – Thursday, July 21, 7 pm – Amanda Palmer, artist-in-residence at National Parks, discusses her work, with display and sale. Friday, July 22 - Ben Franklin Kite Demo, replica kits by Jan McCormick. August 5 – Jan leads walking tour of Miner buildings in Chazy then to Amazing Grace Winery for appetizers and music by Steve Collier \$15. [Ellen]

Champlain Valley Transportation Museum – Groups and individual tours are provided daily. The Children’s Museum has a new director, Mary Beth Schrader, who will run the Children’s Faire showing life in the 1812 era, during the Battle of Plattsburgh commemoration in Trinity Park. Stan and Chris Ransom do games on Saturday and Sunday, followed by a Children’s Parade at 12:30 (with a muster at 12:15), then the Children’s Faire. Other years they’ve served ~600 kids. Watch for schedule updates. [Stan]

Clinton County Historical Association/Museum – July 24 – Valcour Lighthouse – opening festivities at the Route 9 Peru Landing DEC boat launch dock at 11 am. At 1 pm, DEC will begin transporting folks from the boat launch to the lighthouse and return (special this afternoon only). Tours and trails open to visitors. Watch out for poison ivy off trails. [Julie and Geri]

Lyon Mountain Mining and Railroad Museum – Chateauguay Arts Festival is July 30 at the Hollywood, from 10am ->? Grounds are usually very crowded; not sure if additional attractions can be accommodated. July 23 – Fundraiser Dinner for the Museum, to be held at the Legion in Lyon Mountain. [Jane]

Plattsburgh State Arts – Pre-School enrichment 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10 am; Summer Safari Camps; pretty quiet until students return! [Sam]

Meeting adjourned at 9:33am.

**NEXT MEETING – Thursday, August 11th, 8:30am – Chamber of Commerce meeting room, Route 9 North**

**Please let Kristy Kennedy [kristyk@northcountrychamber.com] know you will be attending the ACCA meeting so she can, before the meeting, set up with Path Thru History log-ins – that demo/training will be part of ACCA meeting!**

Respectfully submitted,

*Barb*  
Barb Benkwitt  
Secretary, ACCA