



Minutes of the Adirondack Coast Cultural Alliance Meeting, June 9, 2016

President Ellen Adams called the meeting to order at 8:39am, Thursday, June 9, 2016 at the Town Hall, Town of Schuyler Falls, in Morrisonville, NY. We were glad to provide snacks and drinks and a meeting room!

Present: Ellen Adams (Alice T. Miner Museum, ACCA prez), Karen Batchelder (CEFLS), Samantha Bellinger (PSU Arts), Barb Benkwitt and Marge Wood (Schuyler Falls Town), Geri Favreau (CCHA), Helen Nerska (CCHA), Melissa Peck (CCHA, ACCA coordinator), Alina Walentowicz (Visitors' Bureau). Guests were from "The Storytellers" – Monica McGaughey, Tara Twomey-Mulvey, Cailin Twomey-Mulvey.

Ellen welcomed the Storytellers group (who had originally been scheduled for last month's meeting), and suggested we hold a brief business meeting first, allowing them time to get ready for their presentation.

The minutes of the May 12th meeting were approved on motion (Geri motioned, Helen seconded). There was no treasurer's report.

Melissa presented her coordinator's report – Museum Days set up and publicity was great this year. She worked with George Rock, and P-R provided small ads on May 24-26-27-28, and large ads May 29, Jun 2-3-4. She also developed a flyer as had been done last year, but this year it went out through CVES to all the schools, with over 2000 flyers distributed. Printing via the county and/or using half-size paper makes this cost effective as well. Good to do next year. Publicity was on WIRY, Eagle, and with First Weekends. Also, Melissa attended the joint CVHN meeting. Jim Brangan of LCBP still can take input on projects to be funded. Connect ASAP with Melissa.

Old Business –

- Passport and Museum weekend – June 4-5 – Please provide your attendance numbers to Melissa as soon as possible. Both CCHA and ATM said that attendance was down some, but the quality of those visiting was exceptional. People stayed a long time and asked good questions. One concern was that a few museums had volunteer staffing problems (BOPA, PAFB) and thus were not open the full time 10-4 – on both Saturday and Sunday, resulting in CCHA getting complaints. Next year the full commitment must be emphasized otherwise the museum cannot participate / be a part of the Museum Days publicity.
- Museum Weekend in 2017 will be June 3-4 – again the first full weekend in June.
- CVHN Joint meeting – We should all receive the notes once distributed, which should be soon. Suggestion by Geri that ACCA host the next joint meeting, at AARCH, to encourage more ACCA participation, since only 4 (all CCHA) were at this meeting. Recap/discussion that usually we hold joint meetings twice a year, perhaps the next in November, and that having a joint meeting should take the place of that month's ACCA meeting so as to encourage attendance. The later time for CVHN may inhibit some from attending, though if after the busy season more people might be able to attend. November would coincide with New York History Month. Ellen will communicate with CVHN.

New Business – (Presentation held after member reports)

- Cuisine Trail / Storytellers – Monica McGaughey had been expected to talk about the Cuisine Trail and the Storytellers last month, but was able to present this month, along with Tara and Cailin. A

performance at Wilmington/Whiteface United Methodist Church in April, 2016 is on YouTube at L1Jq2KfVNe4 (<http://youtu.be/L1Jq2KfVNe4>). Monica can be reached at adk.monica@frontier.com, or 999 Bartlett Rd, Upper Jay, NY 12987; 518-946-7316. Handouts were provided and will also be sent electronically.

Monica introduced her group and how she'd initially connected with the Cuisine Trail to enhance their visitors' Adirondack experiences via storytelling and local stories, especially about the women pioneers, as women's stories have been largely missing in history. Storytelling is living history, and can be included in museums, events, special presentations. Cailin – as Abigail Adams – told how she supported and influenced John Adams and his presidency. Tara – as Mrs. Rueben (Polly) Sanford, talked about settling and developing Wilmington and their family, as the wife of Wilmington's pre-eminent businessman and politician, and their trials and tribulations and early life in this area. These were very interesting!

The Storytellers are available to present at our locations, and are willing to develop new characters by doing the research and developing the scripts and costumes. Monica looks forward to connecting.

Member Reports -

Alice T. Miner Museum – June 25, historic games, Miner Institute open house; July 2, walking tour of Chazy; July 21 – Amanda Palmer talk on “Find Your Park Through Art”; July 22 - Ben Franklin Kite Demo; Aug 5 – building tours in Chazy then Amazing Grace Winery for appetizers and music; August 12 - Family Fun evening, kids games, picnic and music on the grounds. [Ellen]

Clinton County Historical Association/Museum – June 14 – Talk on the Witherill Hotel, at the Plattsburgh Public Library; Valcour Island AARCH tour June 17; Lighthouse open Sundays 1-3pm during July/August, your own transportation; Saturdays July 2 and 9 – CCHA at the Downtown Farmers' Market, contact the market manager to get space and dates. July 12-15 is the Civil War Youth Camp, ages 9-14; July 16 – AARCH Pre-Fab house tour; August 16-19 is the WW I Citizen Soldier Camp. August 18 – Intro to Genealogy at the Plattsburgh Library; watch for info on the Pictorial Clinton County Book and digitizing photos/negatives. CCHA will also do a private presentation at the Vilas Home. [Melissa]

CEFLS – Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System – June 10th – literary luncheon at the Butcher Block. The libraries are doing an oral history project. Comments shared were that CCHA and TAUNY (Jill Bright) have also done oral histories on specific topics. Libraries are looking at connecting high schoolers with senior citizens. [Karen]

Plattsburgh State Arts – Pre-School enrichment 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10 am; Summer Safari 3rd week in July – 18th-22nd, from 10a-noon - Sam will be teaching Mini-Masters; PSU Reunion Weekend and Mayor's Cup July 7-9. [Sam]

Visitors' Bureau/Chamber – Be sure to get your events to Alina for promotion. Town of Plattsburgh photo display is in the case by the DMV/County Office Building, through June. [Alina]

Helen moved, Sam seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:48 am.

NEXT MEETING – Thursday, July 14th, 8:30am – Plattsburgh State Arts – hosted by Sam
2nd floor, Myers Fine Arts Building, park in lot at Broad/Rugar intersection
(no parking permit needed as classes not in session)

Respectfully submitted,

Barb
Barb Benkwitt
Secretary, ACCA