

Minutes of the Adirondack Coast Cultural Alliance Meeting, March 10, 2016



Vice President Samantha Bellinger called the meeting to order at 8:33am, Thursday, March 10, 2016 at Myers Fine Arts Bldg, 2nd floor, Plattsburgh State (thanks for hosting and coffee, Sam!!).

Present: Karen Batchelder (CEFLS), Samantha Bellinger (PSU-Art, ACCA VP), Barb Benkwitt (Schuyler Falls Town Historian+ACCA Sec'y), Jim Brangan (LCBP/CVNHP), (Geri Favreau (CCHA +), Kristy Kennedy (Chamber/Visitors Bureau), John Krueger (Plattsburgh City Historian), Ricky Laurin (ATM+community), Helen Nerska (CCHA), Karyn Norwood (AARCH), Melissa Peck (CCHA+ ACCA Coordinator), Stan Ransom (CV Transportation & Kids' Station), Jane Saxe-Kelting (Lyon Mountain Friends/Museum), Alina Walentowicz (Visitors Bureau), Don Wickman (KDHM).

The minutes of the February 11th meeting were reviewed, Geri suggesting changing 'but' in the CVT report to 'yet' as she had confused the meaning as 'bus' tours being possible by calling – any type tours could be scheduled pre-opening day. The revised minutes were approved on motion (Helen motioned, Ricky seconded). The treasurer's report was presented by Helen. We currently (as of March 9) have \$1864.06 in the account after \$252.50 expenses (2 months coordinator). Once the year-end report is submitted to LCBP/CVNHP, they will provide the final \$500 payment for last year's grant, and the new contract/grant will start for 2016. The treasurer's report was approved on motion (Barb motioned, Don seconded). Melissa presented the coordinator's report – The Museum Association of New York (MANY) meeting is in Tri-Lakes area April 17-19. Check out the job postings and grants on the ACCA website – many have deadlines in the coming weeks. See Facebook -is ADKACCA; Twitter/ADK_ACCA. Keep sending events to Melissa.

Old Business –

- Lake Champlain Weekly – Stan's article is submitted for April.
- Most on the Coast (April 23rd, 10a-4p, Crete Center) – Discussion. Contact Samantha or Jane to help. Set up starts Friday 4/22 noon. Motion by John that ACCA reserve a table with electricity for \$55 (if Press-Republican doesn't fund this year); seconded by Ricky; passed. Samantha motioned, Helen seconded, for up to 100 of each coloring book be given out as samples at MOTC. Passed.
- Service Learning in French – Contact Margaret Leone of PSU if interested. Summer Session is (June 6 – July 2) Her contact info is: (518) 564-3838; Email: margaret.queguiner@plattsburgh.edu
- COC Packaging Party discussion – no discussion this month. Future agenda item?
- Discover Service event – Monday, April 11 from 3-6 pm at the City Recreation site on the Oval.

New Business –

- Franco American Music & Stories – TAUNY (Traditional Arts in Upstate NY) project. Discussed possible leads from the area. Contact Dave Ruch with suggestions. dave@daveruch.com 716-884-6855.
- Updates from CVNHP/LCBP – Jim Brangan always brings a wealth of knowledge, information, ideas and discussion topics with him. He had lots to share today – very interesting.
 - a. There are currently 47 *National Heritage Partnerships* in the US, 15 established prior to 2006, and 28 after 2006 (including CVNHP). Funding preferentially goes to the original 15. There are efforts underway to enhance funding to the 28 newer partnerships. Jim

encourages connecting with our legislators – Stefanik, Gillibrand, Schumer – to help. VT Senator Leahy is on Appropriations. John Krueger will draft words to use in letters for consistency.

- b. Jim then described the *process used by LCBP to determine how they use the funds they received* – Regional Stakeholder meetings and input (like ACCA), December is developing a workplan and budget, February is a 2-day meeting of the Steering Committee finalize. Funding comes from the National Park Service (NPS), the EPA, and the Great Lakes Fisheries. The draft work plan for the \$300K NPS money includes Jim’s position, local heritage grants – such as students learning about local history and interpreting that through the arts, wayside exhibits, the annual international heritage meetings, regional stakeholder coordinator salaries (which pays for Melissa’s work), and interpretive theme grants – such as water used in commerce).
 - c. We are currently in the theme year of Conservation and Community. 2017 is Corridor of Commerce, and 2018 is Making of Nations. Of note is that *Syracuse NY is hosting the World Canals Conference in September, 2017*. CVNHP wants to provide funds to send the Lois McClure boat – refitted – to that conference. The boat will be in Lake Champlain in 2016, and Erie Canal in 2017, This is all exciting to have this international conference so close by. Seeking input on projects. An example is school kids taking heirloom tree saplings from this area and then winners of project competitions would get to ride on the Lois McClure and plant saplings along the route from here to Syracuse. RFPs due in May 2016, approved September 2016 -> implementation 2017 (Oct 2016-May 2017).
 - d. 2018 is Making of Nations – kudos to John for sitting with them during discussions. Looking for a paragraph on any ideas for this. Also discussed the relationship between science/environmental and history and how these are interrelated. How to convey to new history/social studies teachers; how history has contributed/affected the Lake Champlain issues.
- Regional Waterfront Program Project funding – Melissa McManus is the consultant/administrator for \$400K in funding for grants to Clinton Count or municipalities. A thought would be an ACCA grant for the museums to develop a marketing plan for history (like the Wine Trail), to push outreach, to further the Destination Master Plan and ramp up the marketing efforts. Also mentioned was possible return of Passport to ACCA to prepare. The next round for grant funding is Fall, 2016. Kristy, John and Geri will serve on the grants committee; the CFA – Consolidated Funding Application will be used. John motioned, Geri seconded to move forward with this effort towards securing \$20K. Approved. Municipalities can also apply.

Museum Reports -

Alice T. Miner Museum – ATM is partnering with the Chazy School to celebrate their 100th anniversary October 21, 2016. [Ricky]

AARCH – Summer plans are underway. AARCH would be happy to host a joint CVHN/Essex County meeting with ACCA. [Karyn]

CCHA – Valcour Island Heritage Travel Guide is available. This was grant-funded and put together by volunteers; had been in process for a couple of years. Includes a map and QR codes. March 12 is free admission during the Irish Festival. April 4 Monday night lecture by Anastasia Pratt on

Remarkable Women. April 11- Discover Service; April 16 is Day of Caring; April 23 –Most on Coast. Women’s Suffrage and World War I are topics upcoming for 2017. [Melissa]

CEFLS – Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System – Get Ready To Learn is Saturday March 19 at Clinton Community to introduce resources available for young children. Some museums will be there. [Karen]

CV Transportation – At the Feb 26 meeting their Board discussed partnering with businesses, the manufacturing center at Clinton Community, and expanding the robotics programs. The museum opens April 1; check for Kids’ Station expanded hours. [Stan]

Kent Delord House Museum – Currently in historic disarray. The Gold Parlor is back to 1928. A History Happy Hour is being scheduled. Lake Champlain Maritime Museum traveling exhibit is planned. [Don]

Plattsburgh State Arts – Pre-school program meets monthly on Tuesdays. Peter Russon exhibit continues. April 9 –Student Senior Art exhibit opens. Friends of Art Luncheon April 12. PSU will be at Get Ready to Learn event. [Samantha]

Visitors’ Bureau/Chamber – Kristy introduced Alina who is newly hired and will be at future ACCA meetings. The Passport is ready to proof. Hospitality training is May 25 at CVT, with a look at other sites at the museum campus. Clinton Community is offering French classes from March 28-April 27, from 5-6:30pm, M/W, \$79. Plan is for more advanced French II to be offered next. Steal & Deals promo in process - a booklet of savings to encourage visitors, especially because of the soft Canadian \$. *(Kristy also emailed everyone soon after the March meeting with more details.)*

John moved, Don seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 10:20 am.

NEXT MEETING – Thursday, April 14, 2016, 8:30 am. Alice T Miner Museum, Route 9, Chazy

Respectfully submitted,

Barb
Barb Benkwitt
Secretary, ACCA