

Minutes of the Adirondack Coast Cultural Alliance Meeting, May 12, 2016



President Ellen Adams called the meeting to order at 8:32am, Thursday, May 12, 2016 at the Strand Theater, in the upstairs Stafford Room. Thanks to Joshua Kretser and his staff for a beautiful venue, pleasant background music, and 'way cool' beverages and snacks. Thanks for the invite to return, too!

Present: Ellen Adams (Alice T. Miner Museum, ACCA prez), Karen Batchelder (CEFLS), Barb Benkwitt (Schuyler Falls Town, ACCA sec'y), Karen Dispo DeBoos (Strand Center for the Arts), Julie Dowd (CCHA, NNYAC Genealogy), Geri Favreau (CCHA), Kristy Kennedy (Chamber/Visitors' Bureau), Joshua Kretser (Strand Center for the Arts), Ricky Laurin (ATM+ACCApast-prez), Jan McCormick (Alice T. Miner Museum), David Monette (Strand Center for the Arts), Stan Ransom (CV Transportation & Kids' Station), Jane Saxe-Kelting (Lyon Mountain Friends/Museum), Mallory Valk (Strand Center for the Arts), Alina Walentowicz (Visitors' Bureau), Don Wickman (Kent Delord House Museum).

Ellen asked for introductions as there were many new people! Special welcome to those from the Strand Center for the Arts – Josh Kretser (executive director), David Monette (gallery coordinator), Karen Dispo DeBoos (development coordinator), Mallory Valk (artistic programming director). Welcome also to Jan McCormick, new program coordinator at the Alice T. Miner Museum (also with the Samuel de Champlain History Center).

The minutes of the April 14th meeting were approved on motion (Stan motioned, Ricky seconded). There was no treasurer's report, so we assume we're ok otherwise we would have heard. Ellen provided the coordinator report for Melissa (who is traveling). High points from Melissa's email - Museum Days June 4-5 – info needed by May 14 for Press-Republican ads; Joint CVHN meeting, May 18 9:30 am – ACCA and CVHN, the Essex county stakeholder group will meet at AARCH in Keeseville. Jim Brangan of LCBP will attend to talk about and gather information on grants and future projects from both ACCA and CVHN. Please attend.

Old Business –

- CVHN Joint meeting – as detailed above.
- Passport and Museum weekend – June 4-5, 10a-4p – Kristy distributed bags with Passports to those present. They look great; the map is a wonderful addition. Others who need passports may get them at the Chamber on Route 9 (see Alina or Kristy).
- Most on the Coast – Jane, Sam and Ellen were there for ACCA, and Stan, Geri, Helen, Julie (and others?) for other groups. It was a very positive day, lots of interactions, coloring books handed out. Jane mentioned Sam was great in giving the old Passports to people with the comment – 'Free today'. The day went by quickly; folks saw and learned a lot. Thanks to Sandra Geddes for developing this event - please include ACCA next year!
- Lake Champlain Weekly – Stan's article is in this week's LCW. Ellen will speak with Caroline at LCW to encourage Museum Weekend publicity. The tentative future schedule was questioned – reprinted here from April's notes: June – Karen / Strand / Jumping in July series; July - Sam / PSU arts; August / Battle of Plattsburgh (Chamber? Don-KDHM?); Fall / Women's Suffrage?

New Business –

- Internships for SUNY Plattsburgh history students – Karyn Norwood from AARCH began looking into history students from SUNY for interning at AARCH. Ellen has connected with Gary Kroll, chair of the department, on this project. Current thinking is that history organizations/groups who have internship opportunities would make presentations in the Fall to the department's students in order to generate interest/applicants. Contact Ellen if interested.
- Cuisine Trail – Monica McGaughey had been expected to talk about the Cuisine Trail and the Storytellers. Ellen will forward YouTube links and info via email after connecting again with Monica. Kristy doesn't know Monica but described the Cuisine Trail initiative in which the Chamber is involved: both a Northern and a Central Route in Clinton County with farms, sugarers, vineyards, etc. 'connecting' to the trail if within 5 miles of the route. Cornell Cooperative Extension is the lead for the Adirondack Region, with Clinton/Essex/Franklin counties each having two trails per county, max length 50 miles each. Kristy and Alyssa at the Chamber lead the Clinton County effort – contact them for more details. Though not on the trails, history and arts can be promo'd. Note that Clinton County's trail will include Michigans (food!)... Don mentioned that at the MANY conference (Museum Association NY), including food, drink and museums is popular now. Kristy mentioned studies that show millennials want to have direct/hands-on contact with food / drink producers as part of their tourism experience.
- Downtown window displays – Contact Helen, as per last month's notes and Melissa's email of 5/10/16.

Member Reports -

Alice T. Miner Museum – Jan is the new program coordinator and has already come up with great ideas in her first three days, including a walking tour of Chazy, paper marbling on Museum Days, other kids and adult programs! [Ellen] ATM is partnering with the Chazy School to celebrate their 100th anniversary October 21-22, 2016, which will include raffles and more. To participate in Chazy Old Home Days, contact the Chazy Lions Club. [Ricky]

Champlain Valley Transportation Museum – The museum is open, Kids' Station is booming with birthday parties, and with programs on science and nutrition and more. The Robotics teams' successes keep growing. An old 'Jack Benny' style car has been added to the museum collection. Looking forward to Museum Weekend. [Stan]

CCHA – Renovation of the front entrance is underway/coming, so many events will be held off-site. A new brochure is available. CCHA will open and staff the MacDonough Monument on Sunday, May 22; adults \$1, kids \$0.50, to benefit downtown events. Museum Weekend is June 4-5. Tues, June 14 – Talk on the Witherill, at the Plattsburgh Public Library. 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; August 16-19 is the WW I Citizen Soldier Camp. August 18 – Intro to Genealogy at the Plattsburgh Library. August 20 – Walking Tour of the Plattsburgh Barracks by John Krueger, \$5 adults; receive a laminated map of the Old Base area. [Geri]

CEFLS – Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System – All were given formal invitations to the June 10th – literary luncheon at the Butcher Block with Niki Kourofsky of *Adirondack Life*. [Karen]

Kent Delord House Museum – The museum is open! The Gold Parlor is back to 1928, the re-roofing project

is done (including photographing the construction style visible only before the roof was put back on). The History Happy Hour was successful, with speaker from the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, and Philadelphia gunboat model exhibited. Title of the next happy hour (in the summer) is 'Love and Marriage/Sex and Scandal'. People at the first happy hour were encouraged to sign up for the second. Speakers are needed. The 'Plant Swap' is this Saturday, May 14. The hotel/motel/dining/history package project is still pending on Don's desk... [Don]

Lyon Mountain Museum – One cleaning day has been held in anticipation of museum opening on June 4th/5th for Museum Weekend. At 1pm that Saturday author Marty Podskotch will be there; Sunday will be author Larry Gooley. Benefit dinners will be held at the American Legion on May 23 and a date in July. [Jane]

Northern NY American-Canadian Genealogical Society – Classes are being offered on genealogy. Contact the society for info; website www.nnyacgs.com. [Julie]

Rouses Point Historical Society – A talk on the Cuba trip by AARCH with lots of photos will be presented (as had been done at the Champlain History Center) on Wednesday, May 18. [Geri]

Schuyler Falls Town – We will host the next ACCA meeting. The blue/yellow historic marker on Schuyler Falls side of bridge is still missing (scuba team plans to look on the river bed when warmer water). Later in summer, dedication of St. John's Episcopal Mission Chapel (site) marker on Salmon River Road will be held. The Saranac River Trail project now shows Route 22B with a 'complete streets' concept as the suggested alternative through Morrisonville. In all parts of the trail, signage can be placed to direct people to historic sites/destinations located just off the SRT. [Barb]

Strand Center for Arts – Lots going on! Check out Facebook. The Spring/Summer class schedule is distributed; the summer schedule will be available soon. The Gallery is hosting the Merrell and Denise Leavitt's Metalwork and Paintings. The Brown Bag concerts with music in the gallery are 1-2pm on the 4th Friday each month, continuing through the summer. We encourage people to come into the gallery more than just on exhibit opening night. The new City website provides a way for folks to list events. [Josh]

Visitors' Bureau/Chamber – The Chamber is airing new commercials on CTV (Canadian TV) – Montreal and Ottawa - that will run from Victoria Day (May 21) to their Thanksgiving Day (Oct 10); one ad is solely on the history available here. Hospitality training is May 25 at CVT; everyone's already registered. [Kristy].

Stan moved, Ricky seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:23 am.

NEXT MEETING – Thursday, June 9th, 8:30am – Schuyler Falls Town Hall, 997 Mason St, Morrisonville
(1/2 mile south off Route 22B, just west of new bridge)

Respectfully submitted,

Barb

Barb Benkwitt
Secretary, ACCA