

Adirondack Coast Cultural Alliance - Meeting



Thursday, Sept 17, 2015, 8:30am@Carriage Barn, Kent Delord House Museum

Present – Ellen Adams (ACCA President & Alice T Miner Museum, Don Wickman (KDL), Melissa Peck (CCHA & ACCA Coordinator), Julie Dowd (NNYACGS/CCHA), Helen Nerska (CCHA), Marlene Almodovar (NCUGRHA), Karen Batchelder (CEFL Library System), Amber Parliament (Chamber/Visitors Center), Kate Ritter (AARCH), John Krueger (City of Plattsburgh Historian, LCBP), Barb Benkwitt (Town of Schuyler Falls Historian).

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 am by Ellen Adams with thanks to Don for hosting.

Minutes of the August 13th meeting (*with correction to date on minutes emailed*) – Motion to approve minutes made by John, 2nd by Julie – passed.

Treasurer's report – Balance at this date is \$2466.56, including \$475 in dues received, per Helen. (No motion since verbal report.) Discussion about income from Monument opening donations during BOP, in that the money collected was promo'd to be used for monument renovation, whereas the city BOP coordinator implied it was earmarked to pay an outstanding bill. About \$392 was donated. Helen will speak with coordinator Sandra Geddes, and alert John Krueger as to the response so that John may (if appropriate) also get in on the conversation. Next time the monument is open a rule must be visible that one is climbing at your own risk. Julie and Barb will clean out the monument. All brochures, ACCA activity books and banners will be stored in the shed at the Chamber, and a clipboard provided (by Ellen) with an inventory log so folks can sign out/in supplies when needed, by calling Amber at the Chamber.

Coordinator Report - Dues letters were sent out, with approximately 6 organizations joining thus far. Coordinated opening the monument. Continue to send events to Melissa for the website – please use the format at the bottom of the events page on www.adkcoastcultural.org so she can most easily update the website without editing your submittal. Melissa will be setting up a separate section for upcoming workshops.

Old Business

Collaborating with local French classes –

Ellen described our last meeting where Margaret Leone of PSU spoke about the benefits of projects with local French classes, in providing our French-speaking visitors with a better experience. Ellen will coordinate with Margaret for these active learning projects. Julie mentioned she will speak on genealogy at the October 17 meeting in Saranac Lake of the local chapter of the American Association of Teachers of French. Amber and the Chamber encourage translation info into French.

The Museum Education Act (NY State Senate Bill 5001 –

This bill would provide grants to museums for exhibits for school groups and transporting students to museums to see exhibits. The draft letter sent has already been signed by ATM, Lyon Mountain, CCHA, Underground Railroad, BOP, PSU Art, etc. Julie said NNYACGS will sign. Ellen encourages others to contact her to add their names to the list and/or to send individual letters of support to our state legislators.

New Business

NYS History Month – November –

Ellen explained that November is designated as New York State History month and the NYS Museum's website has space to promote programs via posting on their website. The Alice T. Miner Museum is spotlighting 'Made in New York' items in their blog for November. Barb mentioned she's planning a talk on the Salmon River area of Schuyler Falls and an historic marker dedication for the St. John's Episcopal Mission Chapel in November, and has been in conversation with the County Historian for other talks.

Adding events to the I Love NY/Path Through History websites –

Following right along, discussion ensued about these programs and how to get Clinton County more visible. Our regional tourism contact agency is the Chamber of Commerce/Adirondack Visitors Bureau headed by Kristy Kennedy supported by Amber Parliament. Melissa had attended an Adirondack Symposium on tourism, focusing mostly on Essex County which uses the Adirondack Regional Tourism group for promotion. Amber mentioned marketing seminars on November 4th at the Chamber focusing on ILNY and event posting, and PTH. Amber will get

clarification of who can attend those seminars as they are for regional tourism even though a chamber event. She will also find out how the Path Thru History website is populated, especially since it seems Clinton County is under-represented. John mentioned that the area Destination Master Plan encourages building up historical and cultural venues. Most are chamber members but some are not. Perhaps ACCA folks could attend under the CCHA umbrella....Amber will check on that.

Data Standards for Visitor Feedback – 2016 –

The last leisure travel study was done in 2011-2012, so another will be done in 2016. Consistency of surveying done at each venue would make the results more valuable in knowing more about our visitors. Amber will provide the questions to the museums and organizations with encouragement for all to use them consistently in 2016. A reminder – be sure to provide your flyers/brochures to the local hotels/motels. Amber also mentioned the possibility of a bus tour for next year's Front Desk Training so people can really see the venues.

Museum Reports

City of Plattsburgh (John) – John provided a blogger tour to Amber, did a home schoolers tour at CCHA which was great, and did 4 talks at Battle of Plattsburgh commemoration.

Kent Delord House Museum (Don) – BOP was great for KDL– 477 visitors, 130 re-enactors, 200 at the Junior encampment, and 40 volunteers. Damien Batinelli took great photos of the re-enactors. Don's tour of city architecture went well including going into the Bowen house. There is now a bike rack across from KDL. For biking enthusiasts, Hotel Auberge at St. John sur Richelieu is a great place.

Alice T. Miner Museum (Ellen) – ATM did not see a big attendance jump during BOP. Oct 3 is Sounds of the Northway concert; October 10, Marty Podskoch will present his book Adirondack 102 Club.

NNYACGS (Julie) – The Annual Conference is Saturday September 19 with 4 speakers including one on French-Canadian genealogy.

NCUGRHA-UGR (Marlene) – BOP table at the monument was successful. The 5K Walk/Run at Ausable Chasm is October 17.

CCHA (Melissa) –Sept 26 – Out of the Attic appraisals at the Rec Center; Oct 15, Sue Howell Hamlin talk and book signing for Welcome to the Witherill Hotel; Oct 24 5-8:30 pm – 70th Anniversary Party at Valcour; Nov 14, Art & Book Fair; Dec 12-14 Holiday Open House. Melissa suggests all museums decorate with white lights for the season. Conservation Workshop Oct 13 10-2 at Adirondack History Museum, Elizabethtown, echs@adkhistorymuseum.org, 518-873-6466, RSVP by Oct. 13.

Chamber of Commerce (Amber) – The CoC request for funds passed muster with the City for 2016. The Adopt an Attraction program is growing – Plattsburgh Kiwanis is partnering with Lyon Mountain. This year's Passport drawing is September 30 – Melissa will send another press release; fingers crossed it gets picked up so we get more entries.

CVHN – At the recent meeting a Volunteer Program Tool Kit was presented by Lakes-to-Locks. Should be available soon. Also Helen will present on September 28 at an international conference on Lake Champlain.

Check the ACCA website for events

Meeting was adjourned at 9:42 am

Next Meeting – October 8th, 8:30 am at the Schuyler Falls Town Hall in Morrisonville

If coming from Plattsburgh via Route 3 to Route 22B, just after crossing the new bridge/now open (!), turn left onto Mason St to #997 on the right at the playground (~1/2 mi). Meeting room is in the 1st door closest to the street. Coffee/goodies provided!!

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Benkwitt

Barb Benkwitt, ACCA Secretary

Upcoming dates:

*SUNY Plattsburgh Family Weekend (Sept 26-27), Adirondack Coast Wine, Cider & Beer Festival (Oct 10)
November, New York State History Month*