

Adirondack Coast Cultural Alliance – Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2016



President Ellen Adams called the meeting to order at 8:37am, Thursday, November 10, 2016 at the downstairs Community Room at the Clinton County Historical Association Museum. Thanks, CCHA, for hosting and goodies and the viewing of your new exhibits.

Present: Ellen Adams (Alice T. Miner Museum, ACCA president), Karen Batchelder (CEFLS), Barb Benkwitt (Schuyler Falls Town), Geri Favreau (CCHA), Whitney Jackson (Essex County Historical Society – Office Mgr & PR Specialist), Jane Saxe Kelting (Lyon Mt. Mining & Railroad), Ricky Laurin (ATM, CCRS, community, past-president), Helen Nerska (CCHA), Melissa Peck (ACCA coordinator), Alina Walentowicz (Chamber/Visitor Bureau), Don Wickman (KDHM).

We introduced ourselves as this was Whitney Jackson’s first meeting – welcome Whitney!

The minutes of the October 13th meeting (no changes) were approved on motion (Ricky motioned, Melissa seconded).

There was no financial report – status quo; using LCBP grant for coordinator. The letter requesting dues for 2017 was sent asking for return by December 14th; a copy is attached. Additional income will allow ACCA to provide ‘extras’ for Museum Days, etc. The ACCA funds are now held by the North Country Chamber of Commerce, memo noted as ACCA.

Melissa’s coordinator’s report – Melissa’s detailed report is attached. Verbally she highlighted CVNHP and HAPAC, grants from NYS Archives and Humanities, MANY conference, CVHN suffrage meeting, French heritage, and the dues emailing.

Old Business –

ACCA Membership – as noted above; contact Melissa if a mailed letter is needed. Discussion included what benefits would come from ACCA membership, such as providing an ACCA flag if a member, providing unified branding both traditional and online. Alina talked about common branding, creating visibility, partnering, one unified event page, an invite list, consolidated promotion via Facebook and more. Consistent signage especially for Museum Weekend, a ‘museum trail’, marketing in different ways. A question was raised about role and visibility of ACCA – should ACCA be formalized and visible or is it best as ‘behind the scenes’? Discussion to be continued; topics for Board discussion.

Museum Weekend - Discussion of date change to align with Path Thru History (PTH) weekend(s) – A “survey monkey” link was sent to 84 emails with 14 responses to the question of moving Museum Weekend to correspond with Path Thru History weekend (Father’s Day weekend), or keep it the same 1st weekend in June. The second question asked if one day (Saturday or Sunday) or 2 days. Of the responses, 65% said yes (35% no) Regarding one or two days, 69% said to continue 2 days, 30% said just Saturday. Path Thru History also promotes a Fall weekend in 2017.

A motion to move to the June Path Thru History dates, both Saturday and Sunday, was made by Don and seconded by Ricky. Discussion was productive – moving to be consistent with Path Thru History allows us to take advantage of their publicity, and also avoid Dozer Days which is now on the 1st weekend in June. Melissa reported that George Rock from the Press Republican indicated they will continue to support Museum Weekend either dates; the Chamber is committed to provide Passport support again for 2017; Essex County venues may decide to open the same weekend; many in Franklin County have a ‘Fall Into History’ time; NYS History month, currently in November, may change per the new State Historian, per Barb. Venues can certainly still open anytime. ***President Ellen called for a vote – motion as stated - passed.***

New Business –

Planning for Museum Weekend 2017 – Committees: Ellen suggested setting up separate committees with assigned tasks to facilitate a smooth Museum Weekend. Perhaps a Passport production committee to work with the Chamber and secure prizes, a Promotion committee to coordinate publicity, and possibly others.

Wrapping Up 2016 Passport contest: Melissa will send a reminder press release so that people turn in their Passports by December 1. Barb will contact the Passport venues to confirm if they are open in the winter and when, so that can be highlighted in the press release. Ellen will call to be sure the prizes are in hand, and the drawing will be held at the December ACCA meeting.

Suffrage – discussion to continue on the 100th anniversary in 2017 and plans.

SnowBall – events are being planned for February, 2017. CCHA and others are participating.

LCW – Lake Champlain Weekly articles – Helen will cover January; Whitney will write an article in the Spring.

Museum Reports –

Alice T. Miner Museum –Thurs, Nov 10, 7 pm – History Lost and Found – Andrew Black of PSU and archaeological digs. [Ellen]

Chamber of Commerce/Visitors Bureau – The chamber is redoing content on their website for venues and towns. There is a Fall ‘packaging party’ to facilitate attractions, museums, and lodging to partner, even across the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership; another will be held in the March 2017 timeframe. Contact Alina for info/with suggestions. [Alina]

Clinton County Historical Association/Museum – Nov 12 –Town of Clinton exhibit opens –thru Nov 2017 (Altona will be the next town for exhibit focus), Behind Closed Doors tours; Nov 26 Small Business Saturday; Dec. 10-11 – Holiday Open House, all free admission. The CCHA annual meeting was held. At the last MANY conference, Helen said they realized there was little specifically directed to or about smaller museums, CCHA is proposing to MANY that those conversations be included at the next conference. [Helen, Geri]

Essex County Historical Society – The *Adirondack History Center Museum* operated by the Society is closed until Memorial Day weekend, but they are readying 4 new exhibits, including one on Inez Milholland from Essex County. [Whitney]

Kent Delord House Museum – Don and others attended the LCBP summit in Quebec. Oct 22-23 2017 is the international lake conference to be held at Clinton Community. KDHM is submitting a grant with CEFLS and CCHA on Corridor of Commerce. LCW articles are ongoing. Nov 11-12 – Open from 11-3 with reenactors, a jeep, and more. December 3-4 is KDHM open house, December 8 is KDHM Christmas open house, Dec 11 is the Christmas Secret House tour. Open in December for events, then by appointment only until May. [Don]

Lyon Mountain Mining & Railroad Museum – Closed for the season setting up new exhibits on World War I (and II) and including family stories. LCW Part I article submitted with more to follow. [by Jane Saxe Kelting]

Town of Schuyler Falls – Historians’ Open House Saturday, November 19, from 10am to 2pm. All are welcome – exhibits, sharing stories, photos. A New York State History Month event. [Barb]

Meeting adjourned by acclamation at 9:55am.

NEXT MEETING – Thursday, December 8, 8:30am – Alice T. Miner Museum, 9618 Route 9, Chazy, NY !!

Respectfully submitted,

Barb

Barb Benkwitt Secretary, ACCA