

Minutes of the Adirondack Coast Cultural Alliance Meeting, October 13, 2016



President Ellen Adams called the meeting to order at 8:34am, Thursday, October 13, 2016 at the Champlain Meeting House. Thanks, Janet for hosting and refreshments!

Present: Ellen Adams (Alice T. Miner Museum, ACCA president), Barb Benkwitt (Schuyler Falls Town), Geri Favreau (CCHA), Jane Saxe Kelting (Lyon Mt. Mining & Railroad), Ricky Laurin (ATM, CCRS, community, past-president), Beverly Maynard (Village of Champlain Historian), Janet McFetridge (Champlain Meeting House), Helen Nerska (CCHA), Celine Racine Paquette (Samuel D Champlain History Center), Melissa Peck (ACCA coordinator).

The minutes of the September 15th meeting were approved on motion (Ricky motioned, Celine seconded).

[Thanks to John Krueger for excellent and timely notes for September!]

As Alina was not in attendance, there was no financial report. Ellen reconfirmed, as reported last month, that ACCA funds are now held through the North Country Chamber of Commerce. Melissa will soon be sending out membership letters to all stakeholder organizations requesting \$75 from organizations, and \$25 from municipal historians, to augment ACCA finances and thus enable future potential expenses such as Museum Day signage, etc. The notices will be emailed; if you need hardcopy/mailed, let Melissa know.

Melissa's coordinator's report - Continue to send events to Melissa at the ACCA email coordinator@adkcoastcultural.org. Watch for posts on Facebook and our website. AARCH's educator position is still open. Grant deadlines upcoming include DHPSNY (extended to Oct. 18), Decentralization Arts grants – Oct. 28 (contact Kathy Recchia 518-708-3606); Lakes to Locks hosts a beginning grant-writing workshop on Nov. 4, 10-3, in Ticonderoga Community Building, 132 Montcalm St. Preregister at mgibbs@lakestolocks.org. Helen remarked that she'd met (at a recent conference) the larger-than-life Bill Pomeroy of the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, whose foundation supports grant funding for blue/yellow historic markers (our region's application time is Aug.-Sept.), maroon/beige folklore markers (deadlines end of Oct. & June) and more.

CVNHP/New ideas for potential emerging issues in FY2017 can still be forwarded through Melissa for Jim Brangan of Lake Champlain Basin Program, up until October 28th, so please get info to Melissa as soon as possible. For our stakeholder group, this communication is coordinated through ACCA/Melissa, not directly to Jim.

Old Business –

Lake Champlain Weekly 'Museum Corner' articles – Ellen coordinates volunteers to write for LCW for this 2nd Wednesday monthly article, preferably planning 6 months ahead. Dates are open / any topic is welcomed! November – Don Wickman; December – Jane Saxe Kelting; January and forward open. Articles with 3-4 high quality images are wonderful. Articles should be submitted at least a week in advance. LCW also supports additional articles on Women's History, so please also consider that topic for additional articles.

CVNHP Workplan ideas – All should have received an email recently; forward new ideas to Melissa ASAP (as above).

New Business –

ACCA Membership – as noted above in financial report section – watch for the email.

Path Thru History (PTH) – 2017 will have two Path Thru History weekends – Father's Day in June, and Columbus Day in October. Discussion occurred about changing Museum Weekend to coincide with the June date, and/or going back to a one-day Museum Day. For now, all are encouraged to post on Path Thru History to take advantage of the publicity that website (and ILoveNY) provide. Alina and Kristy at the Chamber can provide info on access to posting (see also August 2016 ACCA notes). Comments included concern from Lyon Mt in moving Museum Weekend which typically is the start of their season and has generated a lot of interest and visitors. Many venues report a trailing off of attendance at Museum Days as we are in year 8 or 9 of the event so perhaps interest is waning and it's time for a re-boot. Dozer Days is competing again, scheduled the first weekend in June, 2017. Suggestion is for ACCA Board to meet and discuss and propose ACCA direction. Comments via email will be solicited for discussion in November.

New York State History Month – November 2016. Encourage venues to open with free admission and special events

Veterans' Day weekend (Nov 11-12-13). The new State Historian (Devin Lander) solicits input on what is the best month for future NY History Month as many historical sites are already closed for the season by November.

CVHN Focus Group meets on Women's Suffrage on October 26, 9:00am AARCH in Keeseville. All ACCA are encouraged to attend so we can brainstorm/compare notes amongst groups in Clinton and Essex Counties.

ACCA Vice President - position is open due to Samantha Bellinger's departure – please consider volunteering; contact President Ellen Adams for info/if interested @ director@minermuseum.org)

ACCA Coloring Books – Helen asked how we can get best use of the coloring books we have in stock, such as distributing them at ACCA events (and as we've done at the monument openings), providing them to groups, etc. Possible referral to Board for discussion. Ads had paid for the books initially, with sale proceeds proposed to fund future books, which have not yet been defined or designed or planned.

Museum Reports –

Alice T. Miner Museum – Oct 20 – Remarkable Women 1st person-presentation by Sandra Weber. Thurs, Nov 10, 7 pm – History Lost and Found – Andrew Black of PSU talks about archaeological collection at ATM from the early 20th century, current ways to preserve history when excavating on your own property. [Ellen]

Champlain Meeting House – Established by Janet and her husband as a community center, featuring ongoing activities to engage the village and area folks, provide a space for artists, etc. In summer, had Barn Quilt Squares project, VOC display (very old chairs/village of Champlain). Ongoing – yoga, knitting, art-together. Oct 22, 7 pm – Music performance; Oct 26, 7 pm –Talk on guitar building by Dr. Gerner [Janet McFetridge]

Chazy Central Rural School (CCRS) 100th Anniversary events – Fri & Sat Oct 21 & 22 – see handout; lots of alumni, out of town visitors attending, author book signings. Walking tours of Miner buildings Fri, 12 & 3pm. [Ricky]

Clinton County Historical Association/Museum – Oct 15 –Art Fair/ Book Sale, Nov 12 -Behind Closed Doors tours, Nov 26 Small Business Saturday, Dec. 10-11 – Holiday Open House, all free admission. Valcour Island Heritage Trail brochure completed by Roger Harwood, sponsored in part by CVNHP grant. See handouts. [Helen, Geri]

Lyon Mountain Mining & Railroad Museum – Though the museum is closed for the season, volunteers are very active setting up new exhibits for next year on World War I (and II) and future. With Monitors now installed and heating the building, it's possible to work inside this time of year. In WWII, those employed in the mine were exempt from the draft, the mines being the largest employer in Clinton County and critical to the war effort! [Jane Saxe Kelting]

Lake Champlain Maritime Museum - will actively be participating next year in the 100th Anniversary of the Canals in NYS, including a canals 'Boatilla' reenacting the 1860's relocation of the glass works from Brooklyn to Corning. [Celine]

TAUNY - French-American heritage in the North Country is the subject of research being conducted by Jill Breit. Residents with Quebecois and/or French ancestry are invited to share their stories, photos, and objects at the Samuel de Champlain History Center in Champlain on November 12 at 1 pm. TAUNY also is currently exhibiting quilts from around the North Country quilts at their Main Street location in Canton. [Celine Paquette]

NY State Museum – at the recent historians/genealogy conference, it was mentioned that the State Museum in Albany will have three major exhibits on display during mid-November, 2016 through Mother's Day, 2017 – on Suffrage, Canals, and WWI. Suggestion is this would be a great time to visit the museum! [Barb Benkwitt]

Ellen asked if there was more business, and hearing none, Barb moved, Ricky seconded - Meeting adjourned at 9:43am.

NEXT MEETING – Thursday, November 10, 8:30am – Clinton County Historical Association/Museum, 98 Ohio Ave, Plattsburgh

Respectfully submitted,

Barb

Barb Benkwitt
Secretary, ACCA