

IABA Meeting Minutes February 3, 2026

The meeting was held at Up North and called to order at 6:40 pm by Jill Marsh. In attendance were: Jill and Karl Marsh, Chris Simons, Sydney Richards, Connie Perry, Adele Burnett, Janet and Ray Cardella, Tera Arey, Julie Meeks, Tim Brownsell, Bonnie Lutz, Karen Kessler, Gino Velardi, Karen and Brad Gorea, Ali and Trae Skinner, Margie and Bruce O'Hara, Lynn Durkin, Jane Slack, Sabrina Nedell, Stephen Cole, Carrie Stallard, Joanne Kelly, Sharon Miller, Matt McCarley, Leslie Maurer, Brenda Knoeller and Holly Koeppel.

Regular Reports:

Chair: Jill reports she and Adele have been working with ROOST (Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism,) NCCC (North Country Chamber of Commerce,) and CAA (Central Adirondack Association) to determine how those organizations can help promote Inlet businesses. She attended the last CAA meeting.

Treasurer: Jane sent a budget report and a copy was offered at the meeting for open discussion. The Board met prior to this meeting to review the budget. The Board voted to approve the budget as presented. Jane also reported that our CDs are doing very well, currently worth \$27,528. After some discussion, a vote was approved to arrange another CD for \$5,000 and continue the current ones.

Secretary: Holly submitted the January minutes one week after the meeting. After a short discussion, the minutes of the December and January meetings were approved.

Membership: Janet reports 57 paid 2026 members as of 1/28/26, with 2 more paying at the meeting. She, Jill and Julie Meeks met to discuss an action plan on 1/30/26. They will reach out directly to those that have not yet paid.

Inlet Information Office:

Ice Sculptures: Adele reports that orders for ice sculptures for Frozen Fire and Lights are available at \$350, which includes delivery. They will deliver to Eagle Bay and Old Forge as well.

Frozen Fire and Lights: We need volunteers to clear snow from the ice for kite fliers and outhouse races. The 2026 royal couple, Janet and Ray Cardella will be available for a meet and greet on 2/24, before taking up their new duties.

Energy Jeopardy: There will be an "Energy Jeopardy" event at Town Hall on 2/18 at 5:30 with free gifts for participants. This is being presented by Carson Schweinsburg through Cornell Cooperative Extension. An earlier energy saving presentation was very successful and brought useful information and free giveaways regarding energy conservation for Inlet residents.

St. Patrick's Day Parade: Adele reminds us that we need a float for the St. Patrick's Day parade. Last year, it was left to the last minute, so let's plan to get this going soon. Any ideas should be reported to Adele or Janet. Cardella's offered their garage for float assembly.

Community Pride Day: T-shirt sponsorship deadline is March 19.

Prior Business/Actions:

Jill: Budget is complete.

Holly: Work with Woods Inn for kite decorating and flying. Get a commitment in writing on donation for rooms. Complete

Holly and Lynn: Set meeting for kite assembly. Complete. The kites are all assembled.

General Topics:

CAA: Trae reports that CAA meetings conflict with Inlet Town Board meetings. An IABA representative should try to attend at least some meetings. The Winter Festival at McCauley Mountain is next weekend. Everyone is welcome and if you want to volunteer to help in any way, let Trae know.

DisrUpstate Leadership Conference: Jill reports that attendees should register by March 1 for this June 12-14 event. Subsidies have been approved by the Town of Inlet with a match by the IABA and a private donation. Thanks to Bonnie Lutz, Julie Meeks and Adele Burnett. The first 5 registrants will be completely subsidized.

Black Fly Challenge: Registration opened yesterday and there are already over 600 registrants! Both sponsors and volunteers are needed for the event. See Adele for more info.

InletNY.com: The new InletNY.com web page is LIVE. Please check it out and report any issues/suggestions to Adele's Office.

Welcoming anyone new attending:

Sabrina Gribneau Nedell highlighted the "Art House at the Warehouse" where local and regional artists and artisans demonstrate and sell their wares. Their motto is "Friends Helping Friends". They are open May through September and for special events October through December. They offer numerous workshops, many of which are free. See the website at www.arthouseadk.com for hours and more information.

Inlet Business Topics:

North Country Chamber of Commerce: Jill reports that the IABA is a member organization and that our membership will start receiving the Today's Dose newsletter. She proposes a subcommittee to plan a 250th USA Birthday celebration for next year. The idea was received with enthusiasm, although no actual committee was formed today. Julie Meeks noted that next year will also be Inlet's 125th anniversary and there was a short discussion about supporting celebrations for both occasions.

NYS Dept. of Labor: Business owners are encouraged to take the NYS Business Workforce Survey. (see Email received 1/26)

Public Comment:

Stephen Cole announces the opening of his new bakery, currently offering his homemade bread.

Julie Meeks would like to open a discussion about spending any extra IABA funds for promoting or aiding businesses. A short discussion took place, stressing that we already offer promotion and assistance. Jane explained some of the issues per the budget, and further discussion was curtailed.

Ali Skinner asked for support of the "Snowmakers Ball", which benefits Kinderwood. Tentative date is 3/17. Contact Ali Skinner for more information.

The next meeting is March 3rd at 6:30 pm at a location to be announced.

With a motion by Janet, seconded by Connie, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.