Meeting of the board of directors of Friends of the Outlet, Wednesday May 17 at Penn Yan Elks Lodge.

Present: Leon Fontier, Kristi Hoag, Tom McGuigan, Phil Rahr, Steve Stork, Peg Thompson, John Warner, Carol Worth and Mickey Orr. Chuck McClure attended via Skype. Guest: Pat Galvin

President Gwen Chamberlain called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Motion to approve the minutes of the April meeting made by Steve, seconded by Leon. Motion passed.

Motion to approve the financial report submitted by Treasurer Dave Reeve made by Chuck seconded by Carol. Motion passed

Motion to approve the April financial report made by Leon, seconded by John Motion Passed. Leon asked for information on the spendable cash situation. Noting that is a good question, Chuck said he would like the finance committee to summarize. Kristi said she would like details on current grant application. Gwen noted that under the financial report, CPA Tom Podsiadlo has completed the tax report. The bill for this service is $75. Motion by Kristi, seconded by Steve to pay the bill. Motion passed. Gwen said she would like to discuss fees charged by Podsiadlo’s office when Dave Reeve returns to town.

Membership report was presented by Kristi who noted there has been little change since last month, holding at 246 members. There have been 205 non-renewals and those individuals are still receiving newsletters. Kristi asked if the board needs to continue sending newsletters to these individuals. Should non-renewals from 2008 to 2015 be removed, leaving the 2016 and 2017 names on the mailing list. Gwen said some of the 2015 names may have been connected to the PreEmption project. Chuck asked how many e-mails we have on the mailing list. Kristi said we have e-mail addresses for approximately 2/3 of the 2016 and 20017 people. Chuck asked about the cost of the newsletter, particularly if we are sending them to people who are not members. She said we need to have a conversation about newsletters. Motion made to remove names on the newsletter list from 2015 on back made by John, seconded by Chuck. During discussion, Leon suggested keeping non-renewals on the e-mail list. Phil asked if the pre-2015 individuals would receive a separate notice. Kristi said a notice will be in the June Newsletter. Chuck amended his motion to keep local government and some businesses on the list. Motion passed. Kristi asked if there is a need for a separate membership campaign for businesses. Kristi continued on recognition for higher levels of donations. Kristi said certificates or some acknowledgment is important.

Gwen reported on Sign committee activity. She has a draft of a sign for the Dresden trailhead. She noted Verizon is putting in a new tower and wants to partner with us and the History Center. Verizon wants to give Friends approximately $5,000. They want signs in Dresden and Penn Yan. They would like the sign to be near Rt. 14 but Gwen said it needs to be near the trailhead. She thinks a sign in Penn Yan would be good near The Birkett Mills.

Mickey reported on activity of the Maintenance committee. He supplied minutes from the group’s June 3 meeting. The trail has been divided into sections of responsibility. There will be a common key soon for all gates. There was discussion about a new gate at Milo Mills. John presented his idea for gates, including prices. John reported 750 pounds of junk has been removed from the area. Motion made by Steve, seconded by Kristi to put money aside for four gates. Mickey reported that three benches have been installed so far. The cost was about $80. The group will meet on June 7 at 7 p.m. at the Penn Yan firehouse. Motion passed.

John asked about the lawnmowers, noting two do not work. Mickey said Dave Roddy will check on mowers each week. Mickey said Ivan has volunteered to open the gate to cascade from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. After discussion, it was agreed that the gate should be kept locked.

Gwen distributed the president’s report. A decision was made to meet at 9 a.m. on June 3 to tour the Hopeton Road property. There was discussion of the proposal from Richard Osgood, Jr. of Bero Associates. Kristi said we cannot jump into the plan. A long range plan is needed.

Carol reported on the status of grants. She said the Tourism Advisory Committee is not going anywhere at this time. FOTO has received a grant of $2400 from the McGowen foundation for signs. Gwen reported the cost of three signs is now covered. She said if the application to the Community Foundation is successful the cost of two more signs would be covered. That decision is expected June 28.

Leon presented an update on the September 16 Walkathon.

John said he is concerned about Fox Mills Road and the large amount of trash being dumped. Gwen suggested a letter to the Town of Milo to be followed by a visit to a town board meeting. John asked if trash cans could be placed at the picnic table spot. He said he would service it each week. Steve said this should be sent to the Maintenance Committee.

Gwen polled board members for commitments to committees. Results will be sent. Kristi said she would like membership committee moved to finance and events to communication.

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.