Minutes – FOTO board meeting - Wednesday February 21, 2018

Present: Gwen Chamberlain, Phil Rahr, Rachel Knapton, Carol Worth, Peg Thompson ; Dave Reeve via Skype

Guest: Mickey Orr

Meeting called to order by President Gwen Chamberlain at 7 p.m.

Mickey outlined information in the maintenance committee report that was distributed prior to the meeting. He said he would like to install better drainage at one area near Seneca Falls. Mickey said John Warner is willing to build a footbridge at the old rope swing area from the parking area to the trail. Expansion of the parking area at the site might also be considered. After discussion, the board agreed to allow John Warner to spend up to $500 on the project. Dave asked about the water quality in the outlet, stating that testing should be done. Phil said Keuka College has an extensive program that is testing water in all the outlets and inlets of Keuka Lake. Seneca Lake Pure Waters has a testing program on the outlet that has been in effect for about two years. Three teams of people test water at several sites along the outlet from the Penn Yan boat launch to near Seneca Lake. Peg represents FOTO on one of the teams.

There was no Nominating Committee report.

Carol asked for a budget update. Dave spoke about the need to recruit new members.

Phil reported for the Community Relations committee. He said there was a good showing at the recent Young Professionals meeting. They are planning Dinner with Friends – Village of Hope (when Hopeton was founded) at 6 p.m. on April 14 at the Penn Yan Elks Club. One of the group’s big projects is involvement in Walk for Water on National Trail Day. The walk will go from the Penn Yan boat launch to Cascade. Phil hopes for 200 to 300 participants this year. He would like to see the amount for people to participate to be $10 this year. This would include a T-shirt and a hot dog at Cascade at the end of the walk. Reducing the amount to $10 from $35 per person as charged last year should encourage more people to participate.

Following reports, Carol made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 17 board meeting, seconded by Rachel. PASSED

Rachel made a motion to accept the financial report, seconded by Phil. PASSED

Phil reported that Thomas Alfieri had a very good Field Period with FOTO, completing a number of projects. After discussion, the board agreed to send a $50 thank you gift to Thomas for his efforts.

Gwen spoke about the proposal from the Finger Lakes Museum and Aquarium which is seeking grant funds for a bird identification project in the Keuka Lake Watershed . The museum would like to know if FOTO would be interested in having identification signs placed at specific spots on the trail, if funding is granted. The board agreed to this. New York State Department of Conservation will treat the outlet for Lampreys on June 7.

Gwen said that several groups such as Vision 20/20, Yates Economic Development, Yates County and the towns of Milo and Jerusalem are interested in pursuing a grant for Waterfront Development, particularly for a boardwalk across the marsh. Dave said this has been identified in the village comprehensive plan and the village is pursuing funding for a feasibility study.

Gwen received a request from Carol Worden for someone to speak about the trail to a dinner group at the Penn Yan Presbyterian Church on May 10.

Phil made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Rachel. PASSED. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.