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# Friends of the Outlet, Inc. Meeting

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

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## **Attendees**

Gwen Chamberlain, Rachel Knapton, Phil Rahr, Nancy Tharp, Rob Schwarting, Steve Stork, Deb Clancy, Steve Miller, Dan Condella

## **Gwen Chamberlain called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM**

## **Public Comment**

Susan Spence (will be helping the Friends with Quickbooks and accounting)  
Gwen introduced Susan to the board and her capacity to assist in the future (potentially joining as a board member someday).

## **Maintenance Report (Presented by Mickey Orr)**

Mickey was unable to attend the board meeting, but reported the following:  
"As far as maintenance, we are still in hibernation. I have recently walked the trail, before this last snow and wind storm, and everything seemed OK to me. We do have tree and brush clean-up, but nothing blocking the trail. Porta Johns have TP and I'm assuming that John Warner is supplying? Not sure but nice whoever it is!

Ivan is still planning on demolition of the old maintenance building. I will get a hold of Pete Covert concerning the cameras on that building."

## **Membership Report (Presented by Kristi Hoag)**

\$1280 in memberships received from Pay Pal  
\$3680 in memberships received from Cash/Checks  
\$235 in membership additional donations  
\$50 in pet memberships  
Total Membership Dollars - \$5,245.00  
Total Membership - 379

This report reflects:

5 new members  
78 renewal members  
3 new pet members  
2 renewal pet members

52 Members renewed at the same level of membership  
17 Members renewed at a higher level of membership  
9 Members renewed at a lower level of membership

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*Rob motions for November minutes to be approved. Nancy second. All ayes. Minutes accepted.*

### **Planning Committee**

Rob suggests planning a retreat in the coming months to review process on our goals and what our next goals could be.

### **Finance Report (presented by Steve Stork)**

Two meetings since our last board meeting. Steve commends Kristi for her leadership with membership. Expenses are relatively low right now (porta-potties are the largest ongoing expense).

*Rachel motions to accept, Steve Miller seconds. All in favor. Financial Report accepted.*

### **Community Relations Report (presented by Phil Rahr)**

Hot Chocolate and Cool History is at the end of next month. (Everything is all set!) Everyone is encouraged to attend.

At our next meeting we will be discussing being prepared for anyone who might have sentimental attachment to those buildings that will be torn down in the future.

Dan wonders when the wall is coming down. Gwen says they want to tear it down in the winter, so we need to figure it out soon.

Steve Miller suggests creating some talking points about the reasons for the demolition so that everyone on the board is on the same page.

Gwen and Phil report that Kristin Burch will be assisting Gwen with the FOTO Newsletter. Rob suggests contacting Carol to see if she'd like to assist on the newsletter.

Rob asks Phil about what organizations FOTO should be connected with (other trail organizations, etc.). We'll look more at this in the future.

### **President's Report (Presented by Gwen Chamberlain)**

*Interpretive Signs:* Lions Parking Lot sign were delivered today. Four signs came in, but they are four of the SAME sign. Gwen has a call in to fix this. Gwen will talk with Lance Yonge about installation plans. The Cascade/Mays Mills sign is in final design stage, and the next one will be for a Penn Yan location.

*Cascade Buildings:* Rob S., Steve M., Phil R. and Gwen met with the DEC geologist at Cascade Jan. 17 to discuss possible demolition. They learned the site is no longer listed as a hazardous waste site although we still have an environmental easement, and Arcadis Engineering will continue annual inspections. As long as we are not using state or federal funds to demolish the structures, the State Historic Preservation office doesn't need to be involved. As long as the work we're planning is all above grade, the DEC doesn't have a need for involvement. However, there are some bricks that contain chromium that will need to be assessed. (Not many rocks fit this bill.) Rob would like us to look further into getting rid of the steel at the site as well, to get rid of potential hazards (and also make some money on the sale of the steel).

*Grants:* Gwen has submitted a grant application to the Doppelt Family Trail Development Fund through the Rails to Trails organization, seeking \$50,000 for trail surface improvements. If

successful, this would focus on the more highly traveled areas of the trail between Fox Mill to Seneca Mill. Gwen also wants to apply for \$20,000 from Yates County Natural Resources fund for the Cascade pavilion project.

*Trapping:* John Warner's dog was caught in a trap a few weeks ago. Luckily she was not badly injured. Board needs to discuss the future of trapping on the trail.

### **Board Comments**

Rachel brings up the trapping issue. She is against allowing trapping on the trails. The board is in agreement--many dangers involving animals and children. John Warner spoke to the "kids" who owned the traps, and they admitted that they had traps up and down the trail. We'd like to limit this. Next steps are posting the land and contacting the DEC to see how we can restrict this. Gwen will speak with John and Rob will contact to the DEC officer to see what our next steps are.

Rachel also advertised the upcoming Storybook Festival in conjunction with the new Elevate Youth organization in Penn Yan.

Phil asks that people start thinking about nominating members to the board. He encourages board members to bring potential nominations to current board meetings so they can start to understand the board.

Steve Stork commends the maintenance team. He also suggests we make sure we're looking out for the Outlet Trail with the new revitalization grant for Penn Yan and how it can help improve the trail. Dan says there's 2 million being granted for parks and trails in the Penn Yan vicinity. He assures the board that the trail is being remembered/considered in talks about improvements.

Gwen advertises an event from the Friends of the Hammondsport Trail for their groundhog day event. Also, on February 9 in Spencer-VanEtten there is a Forest Owners event (selling timber from your woods, what's it worth, and how to do it right). This may be useful if we ever sell timber from the Outlet Trail.

Do we want to do an Oak Hill BBQ again? Yes. Gwen will look at getting us an earlier date.

Next meeting is February 27 at 7 PM at Lyons National Bank.

Steve Stork makes a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:59

Dan seconds.

Meeting adjourns at 8:00 PM.