Friends of the Outlet board of directors meeting 7 p.m. August 16, 2017

Present: Gwen Chamberlain, Dan Condella, Kristi Hoag, Dave Reeve, Phil Rohr, Steve Stork, Peg Thompson, Carol Worth and Maintenance chair Mickey Orr.

Guest: YC legislator Taylor Fitch

Motion by Steve, seconded by Phil to approve the minutes of the July 19 meeting. PASSED

Finance report: Gwen asked if there be a list of restricted assets added to the monthly financial report. Motion by Carol, seconded by Steve. PASSED. Discussion initiated by Kristi followed. She asked that grant writing be the province of the finance committee. Dave said there needs to be a way to account for grants. Dave asked for a discussion of transfer of some of FOTO funds. Discussion of the topic was delayed from the July meeting to allow for more board member feedback. Dave suggested that $25,000 from the current checking account and $25,000 from the savings account be placed in accounts at the Finger Lakes Bank. He said the new bank is offering two percent interest for one year. There would be a penalty for early withdrawal. Motion by Steve, seconded by Kristi to authorize Dave to transfer the funds discussed. PASSED.

Mickey spoke about trail resurfacing. The trail needs drainage in several areas while there is nice surface on certain areas. He has looked at other trails for information on their surfaces. Carol asked if there is information on the cost of surfacing the trail but Mickey said he does not have that information yet. Mickey outlined the schedule for the Keuka College work day on August 25. He said the first of the two groups would meet at Keuka at 10 a.m. Participants will be brought to their sites and finish work at about 1 p.m. The second group will meet at Keuka at 2:45 p.m. and will leave the trail at 5:45 following their work stint. The work planning list was discussed. Mickey told the board he has secured a good price from Lowes for folding saws and pole saws. He said these would be useful for trail maintenance in the future as well. Norm Koek has solicited Knapp & Schlappi for a large enough supply of work gloves for all students on August 25. After discussion, Mickey was given board approval to purchase the requested saws.

Phil reported on Community relations. He has been working on the FOTO Facebook page. Eventually it will go to the FOTO website. Phil told the board that many things on the site are powered by Google and we are eligible for non-profit features. Ad grants of up to $10,000 a month are available free to us. Phil hopes to have individual logins for the entire board in the next two weeks. Kristi said that volunteer opportunities tied to committees would be included. Kristi outlined upcoming events beginning with a High Tea and poetry reading in October cosponsored by FOTO and PYTCO; Hot chocolate and history in February; Wildflowers on the trail in March; Birding in April ; Keuka Arts Festival in July and presentation by a Botanical hiker in July. More planning is needed on the proposed wine event which would be scheduled in November. Gwen said the chicken barbecue at Oak Hill raised $633.86 for FOTO and suggested we do it again next year. Dave said we must have more volunteers to help with the project.

As part of the presidents’ report, Gwen spoke about the proposal from Bero Associates for one building at Cascade. She said Richard Osgood, Jr. of Bero would work with FOTO to pursue a grant for a portion of the $4800 the Bero proposal would cost us. A grant application is due on September 11. The board agreed to have Gwen apply for a grant for this project. Gwen said the board needs to decide on renewal of the membership in Land Trust Alliance. She said membership allows FOTO to get insurance coverage at a lower rate. FOTO dues will go up to $350 annually due to our increased income. Motion by Kristi,seconded by Carol to approve renewal of the membership. PASSED. Gwen said she has not received further information about a grant from Verizon for signage. She said she will contact Verizon. FOTO cannot proceed with the two signs that the $5,000 from Verizon would provide until the money is received.

Taylor Fitch presented an update on county matters. He said the Tourism Advisory Committee will be meeting. Taylor said that county attorney Scott Falvey said that we can apply to Yates County for funding. This is a change from earlier information. FOTO may come to the October meeting of the legislature. There must be a formal request from FOTO for funds. Taylor said he in incoming King Lion. His goal as president will be to work with FOTO on the trail, adding Lions Club has money and wants projects.

The next meeting of the board of Friends of the Outlet will be at 7 p.m. on September 20 at Lyons National Bank.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.