

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
FRIENDS OF THE ELEPHANT SEAL  
A California Non-Profit Corporation

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Elephant Seal, A California non-profit corporation was held on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. at the Cavalier Plaza meeting room located at 250 San Simeon.

Directors present: Bill Johnson, Barbara Rice, Jim Devine, Jutta Jacobs, Ann Grossman, Ken Eberle, recording secretary; Judy Burley. Guests present; Michele Roest, Susan McDonald and P.J. Webb.

A motion was made, seconded and passed that: The minutes from the March 17th 2004 Board, meeting are approved.

Bill Johnson recently called Caltrans for minor repairs to the fencing at VP3. Caltrans was there the next day and did the necessary work.

The Directors felt the whale bone recently left at the FES office should be given to a local group for display. Michele Roest thought State Parks could use it for display. She will remove the bone and transport it. If they can not use the whale bone other organizations considered were BLM/Lighthouse or the Morro Bay Museum. The Board asked that Judy Burley start the procedure for a permit to display the elephant seal scapula. She will contact Joe Cordaros office.

A motion was made, seconded and passed that: The Treasurers report is approved. A copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Ann Grossman reported that the Sunset at San Simeon II held on April 17<sup>th</sup> was a success. 23 less tickets were sold than last year; however a larger amount was raised. The catering was more expensive this year, but the food was great. The inserts in the Morro Bay and San Luis Obispo chamber of commerce mailings resulted in donations from these areas for the silent auction. The Board thanked Ann for her efforts and presented her with a dinner for 2 at the restaurant of her choice.

A report on the newsletters will be given at a later date.

Jim Devine and the training committee have contacted the applicants on the docent waiting list. From the list, 3 applicants were ready to begin mentoring for duty immediately. They will attend the fall training. Of the last group mentored, the retention has been good. They have been an excellent addition to the volunteers. The Board will have a future discussion about advertising for new docents in the fall. A possible flyer in the Newcomers "Welcome Wagon" was suggested. Designing a new poster and placing it in the area was another idea.

Carole Adams has designed a new form for the docents to use in entering tag resights. The information may be forwarded to Brian Hatfield and others. An instruction sheet was also written by Carole. A copy of both resight forms are attached hereto and made a part hereof. Michele suggested to the Directors that only complete tag numbers should be sent. The Board agreed that the new form should be put into place. The instruction sheet and explanation will be included in the next docent letter. Michele will present a short session on tag resights at the next fall docent training.

Judy asked the Directors if use could be made of current and past docent journals. Changing the procedure to notations on a form (including visitor count and interesting sights) was discussed. The journals include many humorous and interesting encounters and situations at the Vista Point. Enhanced use of the journals could include adding them to the docent letters, membership mailings and designing a possible booklet of anecdotes. A volunteer would need to edit the past and current journals. A discussion of this will follow. The Board asked that Bill contact Joan Crowder for help with this project. Carole Adams has offered to edit the previous year's entries.

Susan McDonald asked that the Board send a letter in support of the Caltrans purchase of land on the west side of Highway 1. The American Land Conservancy has found \$ 23 million dollars in Federal Transportation funds to be used by Caltrans for the purchase. Caltrans would own 60% of the land and the Hearst Corporation would retain 40% including (Pico Pt., Ragged Pt. and San Simeon Cove). The Hearst framework would be the same as the framework that FES has previously endorsed. Caltrans could move the highway inland to assist in correcting the erosion problems. There will be a meeting of the San Luis Obispo County Council of Governments on May 5<sup>th</sup> to vote on whether to send this process on to the State on May 13<sup>th</sup>. FES and Caltrans have had a good relationship in the past. Caltrans would manage the land at VP3. They could be making the decisions about items such as the boardwalk at the North End of VP3. The Conservation Easement is forever. Susan stated that the letter of support by FES for the purchase of the land by Caltrans would need to be received prior to the SLO COG meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May. A motion was made, seconded and passed that: The Friends of the Elephant Seal send a letter to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Chairman Bob Balgenorth; California Transportation Commission and Ron DiCarli, Executive Director of the San Luis Obispo County Council of Governments in support of the Caltrans proposal to pursue \$ 23 million in federal transportation funds to purchase 18 miles of land west of the Hearst Ranch.

P.J. Webb will email the FES office information concerning the May 18<sup>th</sup> MBNMS Working Group to be held at the Cambria Vet's Hall. Michele notified the Directors that May 1<sup>st</sup> is Snapshot Day. Volunteers can show up at the Cambria Vet's Hall to help with Water Quality Testing. Anyone interested should contact Michele Roest.

The next Board meeting will be held on Wed. June 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at the Cavalier Plaza meeting room.

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

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Judy Burley, Recording Secretary

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William Johnson, President