

Minutes – South Whidbey Tilth Business Meeting – June 19, 2014

Present: Prescott, Edward Hueneke, Jean Nelson, Kirsten Clauson, and Marc Wilson. **Absent:** Tom White. Also present: nine Tilth members.

Prior to the call to order, the 32rd birthday of South Whidbey Tilth's founding was recognized and celebrated with cake provided by Prescott and Michael Seraphinoff.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Prescott at 6:40pm. The meeting was held at the South Whidbey Tilth Sustainability campus.

Announcements/Introductions

Council members and Tilth members present were introduced. Tilth member Vivian Stenbridge was recognized for her association with Tilth for the entire 32 years. Prescott reminded everyone that Tilth is a beneficiary if the upcoming Whidbey Island Garden Tour is a success. It is scheduled for June 28. Also a reminder by Prescott of the film screening of Chris Korrow's movie *Dancing with Thoreau* at the Clyde Theater on Sunday, June 22 at 2pm. Calyx Community Arts School summer camp starts June 30th. Four one-week sessions will be meeting at the Tilth campus. Signup can be made through the Calyx website or Facebook page. The annual field mowing by Ed Fickbohm will be done the last week in June. Timing of the mowing is after the invasive plant workshop on Saturday and the beginning of the Calyx summer camp. Prescott will be placing flags to indicate and protect some of the plantings from mowing.

Minutes

Motion was made and seconded to accept the May minutes as written. Motion carried.

President's Report

Votes have been received from a majority of the Tilth membership to unanimously accept the proposed changes to the S.W. Tilth Bylaws. By the will of the meeting, it was agreed the remaining ballot hard copies will be received by June 22.

Prescott noted that language in Article 8, Section B, #5 needs to be changed. It currently states that electronic voting on items between regular Council meetings be accepted by "majority" vote. It needs to say that it be by "unanimous" vote. It will be referred back to the Rules Committee for change. The committee will also formulate a procedure for electronic voting and will include both in Policies and Procedures. Dorcas Young volunteered to be on the Rules Committee. Linda Good reported that the old chicken tractor has been refurbished and given to the Calyx School for finishing and to be used in a raffle. Tickets will be \$2 each or three for \$5 and available beginning in July. The raffle drawing will take place at the October Halloween party and the money will go for Calyx scholarships.

The Tilth raffle this year will be in conjunction with the August 20th Sustainability Banquet. Raffle options include selling tickets that can be dropped into containers relating to each of the raffle items with winners being chosen from those tickets or conducting a silent auction. A call for raffle items was made as well as someone to coordinate the raffle.

Treasurer's Report

The monthly Profit & Loss and Balance Sheet was reviewed. Edward stated that the current bank balance was \$4,983.

Clarification is needed from Sound Publishing regarding their billing. Prescott will investigate. Tilth has spent around \$1,100 on market promotion. Additional promotion expenses of approximately \$1750 including printing, musicians and mowing are expected. Approximately \$135/week income from Sunday market is needed.

Tilth is past the half-way mark on repayment of the land loan. Tilth has paid \$73,650 with \$62,350 balance remaining. That works out to be approximately 11-1/2 years or about year 2025 to pay off.

Market Report – Kirsten Clauson reported that the Sunday Market is going quite well. Looking at the income comparison that Prescott has been keeping we are ahead of 2013 on income. The average visitor count for 2012, 2013 was 212 and 188 respectively with 2014 being at 219. Thanks to Sheila Mohn, who has volunteered as our visitor counter. Help is needed for restroom cleaning. Kirsten has sent an email to members asking for volunteers. Dorcas Young volunteered to help.

Land Stewardship - Kirsten Clauson reported that she is opening the position of Land Steward to any new volunteer that would like to fill that position. Kirsten will continue doing what she can until the position is filled. The group expressed thanks to Kirsten for the job she has done. A question was asked concerning the disposing of thistle. Including them in the compost is not encouraged, therefore they can be bagged and given to Chris Williams for her animals. Contact Prescott with any questions.

Education – Michael Seraphinoff asked for volunteers to help with the Educational booth at this year's Whidbey Island Area Fair. Contact Michael if interested. A copy of the Fair Premium List booklet was handed out.

Membership/Community Relations - Marc Wilson reported he is still coming up to speed on the member database. At some future point, Marc is hoping to have a calendar of events going to the membership to keep them connected and up-to-date on upcoming items.

Whidbey ECO-Network – Thanks to Edward Hueneke for officially representing Tilth at the Education, Communication and Outreach (ECO)Network meetings for the last 2 years. ECO Net is in recess for the summer, but there will be an opening for someone to represent Tilth beginning in September. ECO-Net is comprised of many different organizations on the Island promoting the health and future of Whidbey Island. If interested, contact Prescott or go to the Whidbey ECO-Net website for more information. The theme, "Whidbey Waters Are In Your Hands," will be continued another year. S.W. Tilth's programs and workshops centered around this theme this year as well as being a recipient of an ECO Net mini grant, through the Puget Sound Partnership.

Old Business -

South Whidbey Acoustic Music Festival – Fliers promoting the event on July 6th were distributed along with a sign-up sheet for volunteer opportunities before, during and after the event. The event is from 11am to 7pm. A request was made to bring coolers with ice to be used for those market customers to store their purchased produce in if they want to stay for the music performances. There will be designated areas for volunteers to take any Festival donations. Event coordinator Russell Clepper will be needing set-up, sound, and set coordination. A volunteer from last year will be asked to run the children's activities again this year with a \$25 donation from Tilth to supplement any supplies.

Whidbey Island Area Fair - In addition to the education booth, Tilth will partner with the Deer Lagoon Grange, Whidbees and Conservation District in the Agriculture department (Burrier Building). Tilth members will be emailed asking for volunteers. Volunteers are needed to work in the department during the Fair and also to volunteer two days before to accept entries, assist the judges and arrange the display for the fair. On July 27 the Grange will be having their "Critter Workshop" at the Tilth market. The Grange will hand out "Grange box" to the children who in

turn will purchase uniquely shaped vegetables from the Market vendors to be used to create their critter. The Fair runs from July 31 thru August 3rd. Contact Pam Nodus or Prescott if interested.

Donated Tractors - A long-time Tilth member has donated five antique tractors and a tiller to Tilth. Tilth may sell three of the tractors to an antique tractor collector. The remaining two tractors may be offered to a local resident who will store them, restore them to a working condition and make them available for "tractor day" at Tilth and available for use by Tilth when wanted. A motion was made by Marc Wilson to 1) accept the donation of the farm equipment, 2) sell three of the tractors for \$4,000 and 3) transfer possession of the remaining two tractors. Motion was seconded and passed.

Sustainability Banquet – A coordinator is needed to head a planning committee and coordinate details for the August 20 banquet. Contact Prescott if interested.

Farm Tour – S. W. Tilth is a part of the Whidbey Farm Tour this year. The dates are September 20 and 21. Check out the link about S.W. Tilth on the Whidbey Island Farm Tour website. Thanks to Kirsten for sending in the photos and text for the link. Tours of the campus will be offered, Anza Muenchow will be teaching plant propagation, Dorcas Young of Lesedi Farms will offer hoop house tours, and a possible mini-market will be available on Saturday, as well as, the regular Sunday market. Contact Anza to volunteer.

Water System Installation – There was a drip irrigation workshop on May 24 given by Marc Wilson with demonstration and installation on one of the pea patches. Prescott documented the workshop to fulfill the Whidbey Island Garden Tour grant requirement. Additional funds from the Whidbey Island Garden Tour, are allocated for parts, training and installation throughout the community gardens. The master water meter has been installed and located near the pump house. In order to better budget water and electrical use, it is beneficial to have several mini-meters throughout the campus.

New Business -

Dedicated Offering – Linda Good reported that the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Whidbey Island (UUCWI) will be giving the offering proceeds from their July 20th service to S.W. Tilth. It is requested that someone representing Tilth present a three-minute talk about S.W. Tilth before the offering. If interested, please contact Prescott.

Whidbey Camano Land Trust – The Whidbey Camano Land Trust has asked S.W. Tilth, and other ECO-Network members, to sign a letter to Governor Inslee to support the \$97 million for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. Motion was made and seconded to sign-on to the letter. Motion passed.

Wag 'n' Walk – S.W. Tilth has been invited to participate this year. The event is at the Greenbank Farm on August 24th. Prescott will ask several people if they would be willing to participate as representatives for Tilth.

With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm

Respectively submitted
Jean Nelson, Secretary