

## **Minutes – South Whidbey Tilth Business Meeting – September 18, 2014**

**Present:** Prescott, Edward Hueneke, Tom White, Marc Wilson, Jean Nelson and Kirsten Clauson. Also present: J.C. May and Michael Seraphinoff.

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by President Prescott at 6:35 p.m. The meeting was held at the Community Building at Trinity Lutheran Church in Freeland.

### **Announcements/Introductions**

Prescott indicated that an additional agenda item had been added. Edward reported that the cost for the salmon for the Sustainability Banquet held on August 20<sup>th</sup> was \$318.00.

### **Minutes**

Motion was made and seconded to accept the July minutes as written. Motion carried. South Whidbey Tilth Association business items handled electronically between official Council meetings will be printed and included with the minutes of the next regular meeting.

### **Email Votes and Record of Approval**

**August 9:** Proposal by Edward to spending something in the area of \$400 on salmon for the annual banquet. When told of the generous donation of tractors, which resulted in \$4,000 for Tilth, former council members and others lean toward giving some back by serving salmon to our members. **August 15:** Prescott tallied unanimous support from the council to spend the \$400+/-

**September 5:** Proposal to have South Whidbey Tilth display at the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Tilth in Portland, November 7 to 9. The cost is a \$50 organization membership and \$50 nonprofit half-size table fee. In the past we've been under the umbrella of Washington Tilth, but as we become our own 501©3 nonprofit, we should pay our own membership to the statewide organization, Tilth Producers. **September 9:** Unanimous approval emailed to Prescott.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Budget/Actuals: There was some discussion about why the \$4,000 purchase of tractors donated to Tilth was listed as Dedicated Funds line item under Fundraising. Since it was a sale of an asset that was donated to Tilth Edward will look into the correct posting. Prescott is following up on the \$870 grant money for the Farm Tour that was mailed on August 25<sup>nd</sup> and has not been received. In general, everything looks good. Market income is up and Market expenses are down. Checking account balance as of September 17 was \$8,626.22 and the balance in the Sustainability Fund that includes 5 CDs and a savings account is \$14,431.55.

501C3: Tilth is applying for a 501©3 and is now aware of a new short form application available to organizations with total assets under \$250,000. With Tilth assets showing at \$252,000 there needs to be a closer look at the Fixed Asset dollar determination. For various reasons at this point Tilth does not depreciate their fixed assets. Edward read a list of items included in the \$252,000 and discussion followed. Edward will research the value of and the designation of the items currently listed and have a meeting to formulate a proposal to the Council. Tom suggested as a first step to simply decide what items need to be written off. Edward, with assistance from Marc and Prescott will try and have that available by the October meeting.

Raffle: Income from the Sustainability Banquet raffle was much higher than the year before.

PSE: Monthly PSE bill has risen from approximately \$15/month in 2010 to \$38/month in 2014. This is due to the energy needs of the Calyx school and Lesedi Farms.

Budget/Annual Letter: Both are coming up soon. Michael Seraphinoff volunteered to compose the annual letter with a draft presented to the Council at the October meeting.

**Market Report** – The Council acknowledged the efforts of Kirsten as Market Manager this year.

Prescott commented on the continued volunteer participation of market set-up/take-down and how smoothly it is running. Kirsten would like to have some kind of a year-end graph showing a weekly breakdown of market income, etc. Jean volunteered to handle that.

**Land Stewardship** - Marc reported that drip irrigation has been installed in the Calyx garden. Kirsten reported that she has been approached by someone interested in setting up mushroom cultivation on the property. The large tiller is still not functional, but it is scheduled to be looked at. The tiller recently donated along with the tractors is available. It was suggested that there may be a need for an equipment shed. Prescott has been in communication with someone interested in taking on the Land Stewardship responsibilities, but nothing final yet. A call for a volunteer has also been listed in the newsletter.

**Education** – Michael Seraphinoff reported that there will be 6 classes offered this weekend as part of the Farm Tour. The movie night presentations will be the first Thursday of the month.

**Membership/Community Relations** – It's time to start forming a nominating committee for next year's Council and for the end-of-year fundraising letter. The membership/ mailing database along with a donor listing continues to be worked on by Marc, Prescott and Gary Ingram.

#### **Upcoming Events –**

**Whidbey Island Farm Tour** – The Whidbey Island Farm Tour is this weekend September 20 and 21. Prescott had sent an email recently asking for volunteers and is happy to report that response was good and volunteers have come forward. Prescott laid out the schedule and volunteer duties. It was suggested that volunteers wear a red top and blue jeans for easy notice.

Make your own pizza will be offered Saturday only. There will be food demonstrations by Lesedi Farm. There will be self-guided tours available both days. Maps of the property will be available for visitors. There is a tractor meet scheduled for Saturday morning. There will be an area with a static show of 8 tractors and a tractor parade. There will also be a workshops presented by Anza, Kirsten and a possible presentation on mushroom cultivation.

#### **Whidbey Island Food System Consortium –**

Marc Wilson will represent Tilth and small farms at the September 25 meeting of the Whidbey Island Food System Consortium (WIFSC). Marc will be offering ideas to support and educate small farmers as well as ways in how the farmers can sell their surplus harvest. Marc will report back at the October Council meeting. Similar to other existing organizations working on small pieces of the problem, WIFSC sees itself as the group that gets everybody talking to each other and not be so much at cross-purposes.

#### **Last Market –**

Several special activities are being planned to celebrate the last Sunday Market – October 26<sup>th</sup>.

Prescott asked that she receive the agreed upon activities before October 1<sup>st</sup> so as to be included in the newsletter.

#### **New Business -**

A former member of Tilth is offering a small used tiller and used mower for sale to Tilth for \$300 for both items, but will entertain other bids. After discussion and a straw poll of the council members, it was decided to decline the offer.

With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm

Respectively submitted  
Jean Nelson, Secretary