

## Minutes – South Whidbey Tilth Business Meeting – November 20, 2014

**Council Members Present:** Prescott, Edward Hueneke, Marc Wilson, Jean Nelson

**Council Members Absent:** Kirsten Clauson and Tom White.

**Also present:** Michael Seraphinoff, Pete Little, JC May and Dorcas Young

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Prescott at 6:37 p.m. The meeting was held at the Community Building at Trinity Lutheran Church in Freeland.

### Announcements/Introductions

The Newsletter deadline is December 1<sup>st</sup>. Prescott asked for all articles to be submitted by then.

### Minutes

Jean reported that the format of the minutes will undergo a small change. When someone indicates that they will take action on / be responsible for something it will be noted as an Action Item and will be noted in bold type. In addition, any motion made, seconded and approved will also be noted in bold type.

**Motion was made and seconded to accept the October minutes as presented. Motion carried.**

### Treasurer's Report

**2015 Budget:** Edward reported that the 2015 budget status is in the works. Edward commented that the proposed budgets are generally based on history, but line items are fluid and can be changed if needed.

**Action Item #1: Edward indicated that he would work up a draft of the 2015 budget and email it to the Council members.**

**Profit and Loss:** It was noted that there was no Budget entry for Grants and the to date amount was not showing the correct total of the 2 grants received this year. It was also reported that the Tilth bottom line is in the "black" with \$3,906.

**Action Item #2: Edward will look into the grant money dollar discrepancy.**

**CD Transfer Update:** The 2 CDs that matured in early November have been moved to the Tilth Savings Account.

**Action Item #3: Edward will check to make sure that has been accomplished.**

**Internal Audit Status:** John Lee has volunteered to do the yearly internal audit of the South Whidbey Tilth books. Art Peterson has agreed to assist him. They are hoping to complete the audit by the 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Fundraising letter:** Marc, Prescott and Michael have been working on a proposed draft of the 2015 fundraising letter. After reviewing the draft, A.T. Birmingham-Young, our newsletter copy editor, submitted some proposed changes. Council members reviewed the letter and offered some suggestions, including providing a space for members to select areas to volunteer. The final decision on the format and content of the letter as well as the feedback coupon will be handled by Marc, Prescott and Michael.

**Action Item #4: Marc will contact AT to work with her to get more clarity on the changes suggested.**

**Action Item #5: Marc and Prescott will work on the wording of the feedback coupon and present a draft to the Council.**

**Membership Committee:** Marc commented that it is taking a little longer to merge the two existing databases (membership and donor) because he has discovered that over half of the 300 names listed are NOT members. The goal is to have 1 database of names, which will allow for

easier and more complete tracking and mailing. It was decided that the Annual Holiday Party would be held on December 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm at the home of Marc Wilson and Anza Muenchow.

**Action Item #6: Prescott will email Marc the database listing of donor names she has been accumulating.**

**Annual Membership Meeting:** Prescott received confirmation of our use of Grigware Hall at Trinity Lutheran Church between 3:00 pm and 6:30 pm on Saturday January 17<sup>th</sup>. Lori Taylor has offered to be the keynote speaker at the Annual meeting. She will be speaking on the negative health effects of genetically modified foods. Lori recently published a paper on the subject of genetically modified foods and is involved with organizations actively pursuing this topic.

**Volunteer Solutions:** Jean presented to the Council the information she gathered at a recent United Way meeting on Volunteer Solutions. Volunteer Solutions is a part of the United Way website that is currently being underused. It allows community non-profit organizations a venue to present themselves and the volunteer opportunities available as well as a way for new or long-time island residents to check out potential volunteer opportunities. The service is free and also has the ability to track the hours volunteers work on a specific grant. Jean and Marc will work together at looking into this opportunity.

### **Market Report:**

With both committee members absent there was no official report.

Prescott distributed a copy of a 3-year market information comparison sheet she tracks. The report shows gross sales data, vendor commissions, visitor count, weather etc. Though the report is not to the penny, it clearly shows that the market is steadily growing with thanks to the team of dedicated volunteers and vendors. There was a question concerning the dollar amount for the musicians.

**Action Item #7: Edward will look into the breakdown of the money spent for musicians.**

**Action Item #8: Prescott will send a copy of the spreadsheet to Kirsten, Tom and Jean.**

Market Manager - Anza has indicated she would like to be the Market Manager next season, but will need to be compensated. There is potential income from Farm Grants etc. that might get tapped for that.

Farm Stand - Tilth now has a refrigerator that can be used in conjunction with a Farm Stand. Dorcas Young of Lesedi Farms has offered to work closely with Anza and the pea patch gardeners in how to best utilize a Farm Stand structure. It is hoped to have fresh produce available almost year around if possible.

Next Year's Market Date – Possible beginning and ending dates for the Sunday market were discussed. Looking at Prescott's 3-year market information it was clear that May and October can be lean. The dates of May 3 to October 25 were discussed as well as extending the market hours to 10:30 to 2:30 during the months of June-July-August. It was decided that an email would be sent to the vendors suggesting the time changes and asking for their input. It was decided to table this until input from the vendors.

**Action Item #9: Prescott will work with Tom on contacting the vendors.**

### **Land Stewardship:**

The Market clean-up day was fruitful, but much more to be done. It has been suggested that in addition to the pipes in the pavilion that the pipes inside the pump house should be wrapped for the winter. Kirsten has offered to work on wrapping the pipes.

Prescott reminded everyone of the contest she has going to collect as many tent caterpillar eggs you can.

There are still a few winterizing items to complete before December including winterizing the tiller. Volunteers are always needed and appreciated.

## **Education**

Michael Seraphinoff and Prescott attended the Tilth Producers Conference and the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Tilth this month. They reported that it was a good conference and they came away with a lot of information including permaculture and irrigation methods.

Movie night - The next movie night presentation will be December 11 with the movie GMO OMG.

Northwest Garden Guide - There is a new updated edition of the Seattle Tilth Maritime Northwest Garden Guide. South Whidbey Tilth will continue to sell the guide and everyone agreed the new fee will be a flat \$16 which includes tax.

Tilth Market Classes - Classes usually begin in February so Michael will begin pulling together a schedule of upcoming class/workshop opportunities to be held on campus.

## **Nominating Committee:**

Several of the Council members will be continuing in their current positions, but there will be 3 positions available for the 2015 year. Prescott will put something in the newsletter asking for volunteers as well the current Council members continuing their search for possible candidates.

## **New Business -**

Pete Little presented a proposal from Mokihana Calazar and himself to enclose the pavilion porch for winter use. It would be used by The Safety Pin Café and could be made available for use by others. Pete showed a rough drawing to the Council of the finished project and asked for input. It would involve building removable panels that could be removed in the spring and used partially when needed for weather. Pete talked about the building material and placement of some vinyl windows. He also presented a rough materials cost listing. A donation to Tilth would come from Safety Pin Café events and perhaps Tilth would kick in a portion of the initial expense. There were many questions and after a lengthy discussion the Council was polled as to whether to give permission to move forward with this.

**Action Item #10 - Pete Little will research further and refine this project process as well as firm up the materials cost. He will bring his findings back to the Council.**

Global Giving Market - The Global Giving Market will be held at the United Methodist Church in Langley on December 14. Tilth participated last year selling Tilth market bags and Garden Guides. It was suggested that perhaps a Tilth member who is also a member of the church would be willing to volunteer to be available to be at the Tilth table this year.

**Action Item #11 - Prescott will ask several people if they would be available and pass if no one is available.**

Giving Tree Ornaments - On December 3 the Giving Tree will be decorated by the community. Tilth has used the same ornament for the past several years. Prescott suggested it would be nice to do something different this year. She suggested seed packets as decorations. There was discussion and it was decided to pass on this activity this year unless something can be developed.

USDA Farm Service Agency ballot - Len Engle is a candidate for the USDA Farm Service Agency Committee. Prescott polled the Council as to whether to vote aye or nay on his nomination. Most of the Council members were unfamiliar with the Agency as well as Mr Engle. It was decided to complete the ballot as aye.

Eco-Net meeting - Prescott shared information she got from the recent Eco-Net meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for 1-21-2015 at 9:00am. Prescott encouraged everyone to think about attending. During the month of December the spotlight on the Eco-Net website will be South Whidbey Tilth.

With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm

Respectively submitted, Jean Nelson, Secretary