

Minutes – South Whidbey Tilth Business Meeting – January 15, 2015

Council Members Present: Susan Prescott, Edward Hueneke, Tom White, Marc Wilson and Jean Nelson

Council Members Absent: Kirsten Clauson.

Also present: J.C. May, Dorcas Young, Michael Seraphinoff

Call to Order - Prescott

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 - Prescott

ECO-Network Meeting – The next meeting is January 21st, 9 to 11 a.m. at the Pacific Rim Institute. The presentation topic will be how to write press releases. J.C. May volunteered to attend.

Action Item #1: J.C. May will attend the January 21st meeting of the ECO-Network and will provide a present a brief report at the February Council meeting.

Chinese New Year Celebration – The Safety Pin Café has asked for use of the proposed enclosed porch on February 21st to celebrate and welcome the Chinese New Year - “The Year of the Goat.” The request is tentative based on the completion of the porch by Pete Little. Pete was unable to attend the meeting to update the Council on the progress of the porch enclosure so request was tabled until further update. Prescott did however contact those currently using Tilth campus facilities, for feedback and comments regarding the request. Out of this feedback it was suggested that Tilth develop some sort of guideline or policy for member use of the Tilth campus facilities and grounds.

Healthy Farms, Healthy Food, Healthy Kids Endorsement - Prescott presented a request from the Washington Sustainable Food & Farming Network that SW Tilth add their support along with a coalition of organizations to support the investment of public funds to Healthy Farms, Healthy Food, Healthy Kids in the 2015-17 State Budget.

Motion – Motion was made and seconded for Tilth to add their endorsement. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes - Jean

Motion - Motion was made and seconded to accept the December minutes as presented.

Motion carried. Financial Report - Edward

Profit and Loss – Edward made note of several items on the 12-31-2014 P&L most notably the increase in fund-raising.

Balance Sheet – Balance in the checking account is \$10,778. After last month’s adjustments to Fixed Assets, the Total Liabilities & Equity number is down to \$220,624.06 a drop of around \$30,000.

Permit – Edward informed the Council that Tilth has received their Food Establishment Permit.

Septic - Edward has made arrangements with Rod Gabelein to inspect the septic. He will be at Tilth to meet with Edward on January 24th and will do the inspection for \$139.

Donations – To date, the donations received for 2015 have totaled \$3,465 along with 26 membership renewals.

Sustainability Fund Investment – Prescott has heard from Tom Lyon and he is looking forward to talking with the Council at the February 19th meeting to present his ideas for possible avenues for investing the Sustainability Fund monies. It was suggested that he be asked to present 30

minutes before the actual Council meeting time of 6:30 and any Council members interested can be present at that time. He will provide reading material before the meeting for information.

Action Item #2 – Prescott will contact Mr. Lyon to finalize details.

Market Committee - Tom

Initial meeting – Tom reported that the committee met on January 7. Committee members are Brian Kenney, Britt Conn, Edward Hueneke, Jody Crane and Tom White. The Vendor meeting was set for 7 p.m. on February 12 to be held in Grigware Hall. The committee agreed to the 2015 Market dates of May 3rd through October 25th as set forth by the Council. The proposed change in market times for the months of June, July, and August will be discussed with the vendors at the February 12th meeting.

Market Manager – The position of Market Manager is still vacant.

Farm Tour – Tom agreed to make application for the 2015 Whidbey Island Farm Tour

Marketing & Promotion – Tom distributed a proposed Promotion budget to the Council. The budget is to cover the cost of promoting Tilth and the Sunday Market. The line items were discussed and thanks to Tom and the new committee members for pulling this together.

Future – Edward suggested that Council look at the viability of having a designated Market Manager. It was suggested that the market committee as a whole take on the responsibilities of Market Manager thus distributing the duties and eliminating the Manager commission. This might open up the possibility of readjusting vendor fees and adding incentive. Another suggestion was to have one of the vendors take on the role each month. Council discussed and offered up suggestions for increasing the number of vendors.

Prescott called for Council approval of the Market Committee members and for the proposed promotion Budget. Hearing no objections, both were approved.

Membership & Development Committee - Marc

Annual Membership Meeting - Tilth annual meeting is set for Saturday, January 17th. Prescott handed out an agenda and task sheet and asked for help in set-up, clean-up and any other areas. The Council members each took on some of the responsibilities. Thanks to the Macintosh Users Group for providing the projector at no fee. There will be short 3-minute presentations from Board members covering the accomplishments of 2014 before the main presentation by Lori Taylor. Lori is donating her speaker fee and any donations received for the talk, to the Coupeville Farm to School Project. Council members will be voted on at the meeting either through a show of hands or paper ballot to be decided on at the meeting.

Grant Opportunities –

ECO-Net Grant – ECO-Net has funding for projects that use a landscape-scale approach to improve watershed management and land use descriptions. Tilth would like to look at that more closely to add to our monies designated for our water irrigation and conservation project. Tilth still has \$586.55 left from last year's grant to be used toward the water project and community education concerning maintaining the integrity of watershed processes. Marc and Land Stewardship could work together to make a proposal for the use of the remaining money and future grant money. This has been tabled for now.

Action Item #3 - Prescott will continue pursuing information regarding the ECO-Net grant.

SW Garden Club Grant – Prescott has been in contact with SW Garden Club concerning a possible grant to further supplement our on-going water project. SW Garden Club has sent a new grant application and Marc has agreed to work with Prescott on submission.

Motion – Motion was made and seconded to submit a grant request to SW Garden Club for up to \$500 with 10% being used for administrative purposes. Motion passed.

Land Stewardship -

Committee – Dorcas Young has stepped forward to take on the Land Stewardship responsibilities. She has asked for clarification and definition of the responsibilities. Linda Good has volunteered to be on the committee as has J.C. May and Jean Nelson.

Education – Michael

Movie Night - An informal Doodle poll is being conducted on the Tilth website and Facebook page asking for member input on what day of the month is preferable to have movie night. So far the response has been leaning toward the 2nd Tuesday of the month. The deadline for the poll is January 31. At this point the tentative date for February movie night is February 9th.

Classes – There are no classes scheduled as yet. A pruning workshop in February is a possibility as is a workshop on plant starts in March. Michael Pilarski has contacted Tilth asking to do a workshop. He has an organization “Friends of the Trees” and is knowledgeable with wild plants and wild crafting. He will be on Whidbey Island April 15 and 16 and is asking to do a workshop at Tilth on both days. The fee will be \$50 per day with 20% going to Tilth. He is asking to use the kitchen space, and the classroom space as well as permission to roam the grounds. Michael will stay in contact with Mr. Pilarski and update the Council.

Newsletter – Prescott has asked that articles for the upcoming newsletter be submitted to her by February 1. Prescott will pull together a pie chart showing income/expenses for the 2014 year in lieu of listing the items.

Nominating Committee – Marc & Prescott

Dorcas Young and Michael Serapinoff have volunteered to accept nomination to the Tilth Council and will be presented for election at the Annual Meeting. This will fill 7 of the 8 positions for the up-coming year.

Conflicts of Interest –

A “conflict of interest” policy will need to be filed along with the Tilth 5013c application. Marc presented a proposed draft for Board review and acceptance. Non-profit are expected to have a conflict of interest agreement included in their by-laws. The policy is designed to avoid any possible conflict between the personal interests of Board members or staff and the interests of the organization. By signing the agreement, you agree to report promptly any such interest which arises in your conduct of South Whidbey Tilth business. It was decided that the mention of an attached questionnaire be clarified and it was agreed that council members and staff will review and sign the agreement annually. Motion was made and seconded to approve the amended agreement. Motion carried.

Motion – Motion was made and seconded to approve and accept the amended Conflict of Interest Policy. Motion carried.

Action Item #4 – Marc will make a final draft of the new policy and distribute to the Council

Application/Procedure for campus use – Prescott

The current procedure states that when someone wishes to use the campus or facilities, a member of the Council meets with them and gives them a brief introduction of what Tilth is all about and makes sure the where and how to use the facilities is understood. Prescott asked for volunteers to work with her on pulling together a written procedure. There will be details concerning food prep and kitchen usage that will need to be researched and clearly stated.

Farm Tour -

The Market Committee has proposed that Tilth be on the Farm Tour again this year. Response and attendance in 2014 was high and brought a lot of people to the Tilth campus. It was decided to participate again in 2015. Application must be made by January 31.

Motion – Motion was made and seconded to give Tom White authorization to complete and submit an application for the 2015 Farm Tour. Motion carried.

With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm

Respectively submitted

Jean Nelson, Secretary