

Minutes – South Whidbey Tilth Business Meeting – February 19, 2015

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

Council Members Absent: Michael Seraphinoff (ill) and Dorcas Young (home with sick child)

Also present: J.C. May, Anza Muenchow

Call to Order - Prescott

The meeting was called to order by President Prescott at 6:39 p.m. The meeting was held at the Community Building at Trinity Lutheran Church in Freeland.

Building for Sale – Christina Moats is no longer able to use the small building she purchased for her use at the Sunday Market. She thinks it would be nice if Tilth would buy it and use it in the market, but is open to anyone. It was originally purchased for \$4,000, but she is open for other bids. Discussion followed concerning the fact that this need to sell has been brought up 6 months ago, but as yet nothing has been done. Tilth is in no position to purchase the building nor do we have a need for the building at this time. It was decided to approach Christina asking that this come to some kind of resolution and that it be moved or donated before the start of this year's market in May. It was decided that Prescott and Tom ask Christina to have a resolution by April 1st with disposition by the end of April. Prescott will work with Anza afterward and if it comes up, Prescott will let Christina know that Anza might be interested, but the price will be low.

Call for Agenda items – Prescott

Prescott handed out the agenda for the meeting and called for any additions. Tom added Vendors and Market Manager to the Market report and Marc added WIFSC to the Membership report.

Minutes – Jean

By a unanimous vote the January 15 minutes were accepted.

Financial Report - Edward

Profit and Loss – Edward brought up concern for the low membership revenue line item. Though there can be various legitimate reasons for that as well as the annual letter line item, but he will look into it. Marc suggested that the current number of members be listed also as a marker.

Action Item #1 – Edward will research the membership line item.

Balance Sheet – Edward mentioned that there is only 1 active CD left which is the Marlene Wills original CD and the balance is in the checking account. Balance in the checking account as 1-31-15 is \$11,400.

Edward mentioned an outstanding septic bill and Tom reported that he has been moving along with the market advertising expenditures, but has not received any billing as yet. Edward also mentioned that as of January 10th Tilth has brought in \$3,465 with the annual letter this year with a little less number of donors.

Sustainability Fund Investment – Prescott

Mr. Lyon was unable to attend this evening. Council members did not want to meet before the next Council meeting so Prescott will contact him, make other arrangements and let the Council members know the new arrangement for those who would wish to attend.

Action Item #2 – Prescott to contact Tom Lyon to make arrangements for future presentation

Market Committee - Tom

Vendor Meeting – The vendor meeting was held on February 12 but not well attended. There have been only 6 people sign up for the upcoming season. Tom will send an email to all vendors reminding them of the early signup date April 22 as well as sending an email to the Bayview Market vendors inviting them to join us on Sunday. He will also send out a press release inviting new vendors.

Market Manager – The position of Market Manager is still vacant. Until someone volunteers to take on the position of Market Manager Tom will assign market responsibilities. He asked for anyone willing to volunteer throughout the season to let him know.

Vendor Locations – It was agreed that those vendors wanting to occupy the same position as last year be allowed to do so.

Market Promotion - Tom listed the market promotion he has attended to. Among the promotions, Tom has talked with the Northwest Agriculture Business Center about their Whidbey Island Farm map and will be signing up for that in March. He has applied for the Whidbey Island Farm Tour. Tilth market is listed in the Whidbey Almanac. The signup date for the Whidbey Islander is April 8th. He is signed up for two monthly listings on the Heart Page. There have been 50 Tilth Market posters printed and will be distributed. Tom is working to clarify where the posters will be, where the ferry cards will be and who has them.

Booth placement – Tom, Marc and Brian will meet at the campus to decide the placement of booth's and vendors.

Tom requested that he be sent the actual files and not an embedded form of pictures etc. so he can forward them.

Action Item #3 – Tom will send an email to all vendors reminding them of the early signup date April 22.

Action Item #4 – Tom will send out a press release inviting new vendors and Prescott will work with Tom on an email to the Bayview and Clinton Market vendors inviting them to join us on Sunday.

Action Item #5 – Tom to clarify who has the posters and cards and where they will be.

Land Stewardship - Dorcas Young

Dorcas was absent but Prescott and Jean reported what they had from the notes Linda took.

Ramp – Pete Little volunteered to build a ramp at the garden shed to help with movement of equipment in and out.

Tiller – Marc reminded everyone of the donated tiller he has stored at his place. With 2 tillers now there is a need for a new building to house them.

Garden Contract – In order to have something to present to the Council for approval, Prescott has drafted a new Garden Contract for 2015 based on the 2014 version. The rates, rules and guidelines remain the same but a deadline of Friday, March 20 be been added for current pea patch members to secure their plots.

Motion was made and seconded to accept the 2015 Garden Contract with proposed changes. Motion passed.

Water Irrigation Project – Marc and Prescott will talk to the Conservation District about the specific parts and then do the final planning. Marc hopes to have a workshop in early May to install the system on each plot. Marc will also be attending Pam Mitchell's class on irrigation.

Grant Proposal – Prescott has submitted a grant application to the South Whidbey Garden Club for this year asking for \$500.

Hot Water in Restrooms – One of the attendees at the pruning workshop in February stepped forward and offered his expertise as a professional plumber. Prescott mentioned that we needed hot water to the restrooms. The suggestion included a part that was more than what Tilth could afford so we're back to square one. The problem still needs to be addressed soon.

Education – Michael was absent, but Prescott presented.

Classes – The February pruning workshop was well attended and several of the participants signed up to become Tilth members. For those who stayed and participated in the work party, the workshop fee was waived. The work party participants accomplished a lot. While preparing the kitchen for use Prescott and Pete found a leak under the sink. Thankfully, one of the workshop participants, a professional plumber, stepped up and fixed it. Upcoming workshops are: “Seed Starting” on March 15th with Anza Muenchow, “Soil and Irrigation” with Marc Wilson and “Seed Saving” with Eric Conn - dates to be announced.

Instructor honorarium proposal – Anza presented to the Council a proposal from the Education Committee that Tilth offer some kind of payment to the instructors if possible. After discussion it was agreed by a call of yea or nay that Tilth would offer a \$30 honorarium to the workshop instructors with minimum of 4 paid attendees.

Workshop by Trina Paulus – Scott Kaplan has asked Tilth to help promote and sponsor a talk and round-table discussion by visiting sustainable activist and author of “Hope for the Flowers”, Trina Paulus. The proposed date is either March 3 or 4 to be held in Grigware Hall. There will be a 6pm potluck with talk and discussion beginning at 7pm. Half of any donations and the proceeds from the sale of the book will go to Ms. Paulus.

Membership/Community Relations – Marc

Membership List - Marc reported that the membership list is up-to-date. At some point he hopes to merge the membership with the donor list.

Film Night – The recent poll taken indicated that the best date for the monthly potluck and film night will be the 4th Tuesday of the month. The next movie date is March 24.

Whidbey Island Food Consortium – Marc reported that he would be attending the Whidbey Island Food Consortium meeting on March 4th and will report back.

Conflict of Interest Form – Tabled until March meeting

Eco-Net Meeting

J.C. and Prescott attended the January Eco-Net meeting. J.C. gave an overview to the group of what the S.W. Tilth organization is about. The main presentation topic for the evening was concerning the ins and outs of press releases. Prescott was able to pick up some good suggestions on this topic. Next month the presentation topic will be how to promote business on Facebook. Prescott will be taking that class and will report back.

Weed control – J.C. attended a meeting put on by the head of the County’s noxious weed program. It was to be held at the County building in Coupeville originally, but it was so well attended, it had to be moved to a larger venue at the Pacific Rim Institute. The head of the program will be working more closely with the road crew to be more aware of the correct time to mow and to be more selective in their manual weed pulling along the county roadways. The County Grant coordinator Lori Clark gave a presentation on their effort to get a grant to help assess where the noxious weeds are to develop a baseline. There is interest in working with the Navy to do something about the thistle that has shown up after they cleared the outlying field near Coupeville. J.C. continues to work with the Whidbey Island representative from the DOT regarding no-spray. He reported that with all the attendees there were many good ideas and a good representation of on-going efforts to control the Island’s noxious weeds.

With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm

Respectively submitted
Jean Nelson, Secretary