

Council Members Present: Susan Prescott, Edward Hueneke, Jean Nelson, and Michael Seraphinoff.

Council Members Absent: Marc Wilson and Dorcas Young.

Also present: J.C. May

Call to Order - Prescott

Meeting was called to order by Prescott at 6:38 p.m. The meeting was held at the Community Building at Trinity Lutheran Church in Freeland.

Introductions, check in and agenda review – Prescott

Prescott asked for any additions to the agenda then asked each member for a short personal check-in.

Announcements – Prescott

- **Tilth Film night** – Reminder that film night will be April 28th at 6 p.m.
- **Council member resignation** – Tom White has resigned as a Council member of the S.W.Tilth, effective immediately. He will continue as the Farmers' Market contact, and will serve as the volunteer manager during May and perhaps another month. For the remainder of the market season members of the market committee as well as vendor volunteers will share those duties. Tom has been a perceptive and constructive council member and his presence will be missed. Thank you Tom for your service. Prescott will monitor the market promotion items.

Minutes – Jean

Motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the March 19 minutes with corrections.

Financial Report - Edward

- **Profit and Loss/Balance Sheet** – Edward reported that all income and expenditures were on track with nothing unusual to report. Checking account balance as of April 16 was \$9,989.00.
- **Sustainability Fund** – Edward shared his concern about the delay in re-investing the money that came from the maturing CD's. The money is currently in a savings account with a very low interest rate of .05%. Edward has researched the various CD options. The Sustainability Fund is currently with Beneficial bank. Coastal Bank offers various CD options with the best 3yr CD rate at 1%. Heritage Bank is offering a 22 month Bump CD at .4% that has the option to change the rate, one time within the 22 months if there is a change. Edward then read the portion of the by-laws covering the investment guidelines for the unrestricted funds. After some discussion, it was decided that an amount up to \$10,000 of the Sustainability Fund money currently invested in a Beneficial savings account getting .05% would be invested in the best available two year certificate of deposit.

Action Item #1 – Edward will talk with Heritage and Beneficial, move forward with the transfer, and report back to the Council.

Market Committee -

- **Resignation** – Market Committee chairman and temporary Market Manager Tom White has resigned from the Council. Prescott has been handed the Market files until such time someone steps forward to fill that position. The other committee members have and will continue to perform the basic duties. Prescott will collect the vendor agreements and Tom will still be the contact for new vendors, and will direct them to Edward to complete their paperwork. The committee will need to work out any new space assignments and arrange a work party before the

market opens May 3. Since Michael will not be a consistent vendor this year he volunteered to do what is needed during market time this year. Michael volunteered and was accepted as a new member of the Market Committee.

Action Item #2 – Edward will communicate with the vendors to let them know about the clean-up work party on April 26th from 1-3pm.

- **Poster & Rack Distribution** – Michael suggested that there might be a short Market Committee meeting on the work party day, April 26th to discuss committee reorganization and to work out the distribution of the posters and cards to the local Guest Houses and B&Bs. Prescott will handle the market promotion and press releases and will get confirmation from the committee before release.

Action Item #3 – Edward will contact Tom to determine the status of the committee projects and any movement on getting a listing of the B&B's and Guest Houses.

Land Stewardship - Dorcas Young

Since Dorcas was absent, Prescott, Jean and JC, the other members of the committee reported on the Land Steward meeting held just prior to the Council meeting. The meeting was quite productive. There was a lot of enthusiasm around the cleanup and relocation of the compost piles. It was decided to rent a small butane torch to be used around the edge of the garden to scorch the weeds. Pete Little will install another gate in the lower garden area, as well as water hydrant for the lower garden and the hoop house area. Trevor and Janelle have secured additional hardware to reinforce the lower garden fencing. There will be a white board installed on the shed door listing the projects that need completion, a work schedule and a place to post new projects needing volunteers.

- **Plot layout** – Prescott and Pete Little completed the measurement of each pea patch plot, assigned plot numbers and assigned physical plot # stakes. There was some discussion around the differing plot sizes being rented for the same price. There has never been any question from the plot renters so it was decided that it be left as is.

- **New Fencing** – The garden fencing is getting old and could be more secure. It was hoped that some time in the future there could perhaps be some grant money to have a new trench and new fencing installed.

- **Water System** – It is the goal of the Land Steward committee to complete the project of providing water to each of the pea patch plots by the end of the summer. Tilth has grant money remaining that will be used to purchase the initial materials. Once the water gets to the plots, the plot renter will provide their own timer and irrigation hose.

- **Invasive Plants** – Trevor has volunteered to work with J.C. to learn about and help control the invasive plants on the grounds.

- **Seaberry and Walnut** – One of the two Seaberry trees has died. A Tilth supporter with a nursery offered a cutting from their tree. Prescott got the cutting and planted it, but in shopping for the rooting hormone needed she discovered that the local nursery would soon be getting a male Seaberry tree and would set one back for Tilth. Prescott proposed and got permission to purchase the new male Seaberry tree.

School for Hawaiian Studies – Mokihana Calizar and Pete Little

Tilth members Mokihana Calizar, storyteller and teacher and Pete Little operators of The Safety Pin Café located on the Tilth campus are asking to open a school for Hawaiian Studies on Whidbey

Island to expand the values and stories of the Hawaiian culture. The school - HO'OMOKU....a place for Hawaiian Practices would begin in July. Beginning in July, small groups would meet once a week for 4 weeks. The focus would be on MALAMA (caring for land, sky, sea, and beings), 'OLELO (Hawaiian vocabulary and poetry), KILO (observation) and a link with a Pacific-wide Lunar Conference and ULU (thriving and growing). Mokihana asked to rent the pavilion, kitchen and bathrooms from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. each Friday beginning July 10. They offered to pay a share of the extra expenses and if the project goes well and is well received they would assist in securing internet accessibility on the campus so as to connect with a Pacific-wide Lunar Conference in September. The Council approved the proposal as presented with a change in the rent structure from a percentage to a donation to be reviewed again in the future.

WIFI at Tilth - Prescott has talked to Whidbey Telecom about getting internet service on the Tilth campus. There would be a \$360 annual fee plus installation. The router is free. Prescott asked about discounts to non-profit organizations and was told to go on-line to download a form requesting the price break. Prescott will keep the Council posted on that application. She will also talk to a friend for recommendations for a less expensive alternative.

Action Item #4 – Prescott will pursue Whidbey Telecom price break for non-profit and will look for less expensive internet alternatives.

Education – Michael Seraphinoff

- **Classes** – Michael reminded everyone about the April 19 workshop with Marc Wilson on “Soil building and site preparation”. On May 16 – Marc Wilson will be presenting “water in the garden” and later Eric Conn is teaching “seed saving”

Membership/Community Relations – Marc Wilson was absent

- **Conflict of Interest Form** - Tabled until May meeting

Other Business

Earth & Ocean Month -

Prescott asked for volunteers to help with Tilth’s April 25th presentation at Greenbank. Prescott will handle the South Whidbey Tilth display on April 22 at the South Whidbey High School from 8am to 11:30am. Michael and Edward volunteered to help at the April 25th presentation at Greenbank. Speaker for the 25th will be the author of “The Soil Will Save Us”.

Bugabay Workshop and Raffle –

Bugabay will have a raffle for a family size worm bin at the Earth Day presentation. In addition Bugabay has requested a time for a workshop where they will raffle off another worm bin with the proceeds donated to Tilth. Teresa Spratt of BugaBay suggested Tilth could use the proceeds to buy another bin for the garden area. The council made no decision about having a raffle or how raffle proceeds would be used.

Calyx Summer Camp –

Council accepted the proposal from Calyx requesting to use the Tilth campus again this year for their summer camp. The terms are the same as 2014, which include proof of liability insurance, \$30 toward facilities, help maintaining the restrooms. Calyx will likely request use of the market canopies and will send parents and teachers to train in proper setup and take down. Calyx will be using the campus and facilities Mon-Wed. June 29 through July. (Currently they are on campus Thursdays through May for spring session.)

Action Item #5 – Prescott will contact Calyx informing them of their proposal acceptance and to work out a watering schedule for their use in their garden patch.

March Against Monsanto –

The national march will take place on May 24th. Prescott received an email from Linda Beaumont asking Tilth to consider working with the Whidbey beekeeper group “Whidbees” to come up with our own “march against Monsanto” on Whidbey Island. This might also be an opportunity to inform and educate the community of the magic of bees and pollination and the complications of gardening with pesticides. It was suggested that in lieu of doing a march, we could support a May 24th bee awareness workshop and ask the “Whidbees” if they would like to present it. We could also promote the May 24th national march.

With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 8:16 pm

Respectively submitted
Jean Nelson, Secretary