

South Whidbey Tilt Business Meeting Minutes **June 25, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.**

The business meeting of South Whidbey Tilt was held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 25 at the South Whidbey Tilt Sustainability Campus, having been postponed from its regular third-Thursday date. An online announcement of the change was distributed widely at least 10-day prior.

Attending were council members Prescott, Edward Hueneker, Michael Seraphinoff and Dorcas Young. Tilt members attending were J.C. May and Pete Little. Council members Marc Wilson and Jean Nelson were unable to attend.

President Prescott called the meeting to order at 6:40. The bylaws were consulted to verify a quorum four council members present may conduct ordinary business matters.

In the absence of the secretary a voice recording was started. Prescott will transcribe them later.

1. Announcements:

- a. All are invited to the Freeland Chamber Open Barn, July 15 ~ 5 to 7 p.m., Paradise Found Fiber Farm
- b. Calyx summer camp has changed its days to South Whidbey State Park 9:30 to 2:30 Monday to Wednesday and at Tilt only Thursdays, July 2, 9, 16, 23.
- c. Tilt Producers and Seattle Tilt have announced its intention to merge and continue the Tilt movement as a unified organization. This may affect South Whidbey Tilt as a member of Washington Tilt, but we intend to have our own 501(c)3 in by the end of 2015.

2. **Minutes:** The minutes of the May 21 meeting were reviewed and motion to approve was made by Edward and seconded by Michael. All approved them. They are posted on the website.

3. Committee reports

Finance report – Edward reviewed the financial report through May 31 the balance sheet and budget comparison). He reported \$10,000 of the Sustainability Fund had been moved on June 25, 2015 from Beneficial Bank to Coastal Community Bank where it will earn \$70 per year or .7 percent, maturing in two years; a higher rate than from Beneficial. Checking was \$8,131.72 at the end of May and the current checking balance to date is \$8,827.93.

He also noted the \$893 cost for Community Garden and Facility maintenance seems rather high. He will ask the bookkeeper for a detailed report. He also noted over \$1,000 would be going out this week the \$450 land payment and the \$802+ for field mowing by Ed Fickbohm.

He offered his opinion that the field mowing is not worth the current bill. He proposed a large group of volunteers with weed whackers be summoned next year. Dorcas proposed he come sooner next year and we maintain it before it gets so long. Prescott said Fickbohm suggests we weed whack around the plant groups prior to his coming to save time and money. The matter will be reviewed next year and bids be requested from others. Another option is to buy our own mower. The upper meadow will not be cut next year. A work party will be called to clean up around edges of the plant areas this year.

Prescott will contact Bob Wendt and Heath Adams asking them not to mow the market and parking anymore until contacted. The summer dry season has begun and no grass is growing.

Market committee report

WiFi (wireless fidelity) at the Market: Prescott presented Whidbey Telecom Dennis Colar's proposal of fees. The one time cost for installation of services is \$548.50 plus \$200 for the antenna. We understand the phone line need not be included after July 1. The monthly rate for adequate uploading would be at the premium rate of \$39.95/mo (plus fees and taxes) during the market season. The rate could be dialed down during the off-market season. As a nonprofit, we will request a discount or waive of the monthly charge for the first year while we develop strategies to offset the cost. The monthly charge could be offset by vendors who use the service for charge cards. Pete and Mokihana may rent

the facility in the winter months and would help supplement the cost. The wifi could be used for Tilth classes and programs on the campus. Pete and Mokihana are participating in a teleconference of Pacific Islands this September and hope to hold it at Tilth.

Pete and Mokihana have a benefactor to fund the \$548.50 installation. Tilth would own the \$200 antenna, but we hope to defer that cost by promoting Whidbey Telecom.

Pete is hoping to avoid fluorescent paint on the grass when the digging is done.

It was moved, seconded and approved that Pete would schedule the initial installation of the line to the pavilion. After July 1, he and Prescott will request another estimate of monthly service costs and bring the proposal to the council.

Market revenue: Prescott passed around a comparison of gross sales at \$11,480 compared to \$13,044 in 2014. Sales commissions are \$961, compared to \$1,317 last year. However \$240 of the 2014 amount had been used to pay the market manager (\$30 per week). By not paying a market manager and waving the sales commission on the first \$50, the 2015 sales commissions are almost equal to sales commissions last year. (Dorcas's sales were not yet available from June 21.)

Market manager proposal: Prescott reported meeting with Britt Conn and Anza Muenchow. Britt suggests framing the market management position as a multi-year internship opportunity to raise awareness about local, sustainable food systems. The job would encompass involvement beyond the scope of the market (perhaps community gardeners or other community/educational opportunities that Tilth sponsors, council meetings, tabling at events, etc.) Prescott will present a job description and proposal to the July 16 business meeting. It will address how a revenue stream might be created so the position is fully supported without donor's help by 2017.

Land Stewardship report

Farm Stand: Dorcas explained she had a closet-size building outside the Lesedi plot for a farm stand, built by her neighbor Tom. She has offered other community gardeners shared use of the stand, but the process is still in a trial-and-error stage. She'd hoped to include the refrigerator stored in the pump house, but the door to the farm stand needs to open in the opposite direction and the electrical connection changed.

Irrigation installation: Prescott reported Marc and the Conservation District's Rob Hallbauer have a free workshop set for Saturday, July 11, from 10 a.m. to noon. All the Tilth community gardeners have been notified of the workshop. Some installations will be done that day and Marc is committed to work with the gardeners through the season to finish the installations. He has purchased half of the materials and will be reimbursed from the funds set aside for this project from the Whidbey Island Garden Tour and a benefactor.

Education report: Michael offered fliers to be posted around from Coupeville south for J.C.'s invasive plant workshop scheduled for Sunday, July 5. The time was changed from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., hoping more people would attend. Only two people came to Eric's seed saving class June 14, so it was cancelled.

Membership, Development, community relations – tabled

4. Other business:

- a. Conflict of interest policy**— revision tabled until July 16
- b. SWAM, South Whidbey Acoustic Music Festival** is this Sunday, June 28. Vendors have been invited to stay until 5 and to bring coolers for their customers to keep produce purchased cool. The musicians are female, hence "Eve's Turn." Prescott, Michael, Pete and J.C. will help set up parking and the stage on Saturday.
- c. Hot water in the restrooms** — Prescott introduced the concept to not repair the solar hot water

heater, but instead consider point-of-use tankless electric water heaters in each restroom. Tilth member Lovejoy, a former plumber, recommended this solution over repairing the solar hot water heater. He says the cost is about \$180 each. The general consensus is positive. Prescott explained the solar hot water heater, could be used as a heat exchanger in a future office/classroom, but no talent or energy seems available for such an implementation. Barbara Kolar and Mark Fessler donated the solar hot water heater and are willing to accept it back for their own use. She and Michael will follow through.

- d. **Sound Publishing's glossy, full color publication about nonprofits** — The deadline to submit a color ad is July 10 for the August publication of a directory about nonprofit organizations. The general agreement is we have spent our advertising budget and we'll see how this publication turns out. If deemed useful, we may participate next year.
- e. **Bugabay workshop and raffle of small worm bin and worms** — At the last meeting we decided to use the worm bin raffle as one of the Sustainability Banquet prizes, but Teresa Spratt of Bugabay would like to do the workshop during the Whidbey Island Farm Tour September 12 and 13 and have the worm bin on display. The drawing could be on the last tour day.
- f. **Sustainability Banquet** — The banquet is Thursday, September 3 and Annapoorne Colangelo is willing to be the lead coordinator. She has recruited Vivian Stembridge and Linda Good to secure and display the raffle items.
- g. **Fair display** — Whidbey Island Area Fair is August 6 to 9. South Whidbey Tilth will work with Deer Lagoon Grange and Whidbees to steward the vegetable, fruit, herbs, nuts, grains, honey and compost entries. Our own educational display is about engaging pesticide retailers with ideas and tools to promote less toxic products.

5. **Call for Adjournment** — the meeting was adjourned about 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Prescott, July 6, 2015