

## **South Whidbey Tilth Business Meeting Minutes August 18, 2015**

The business meeting of South Whidbey Tilth was held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, August 18 at the South Whidbey Tilth Sustainability Campus. Meeting date was changed due to the scheduled absence of President Susan Prescott. Next scheduled Business meeting will be held at the regular date and time.

Attending were council members Prescott, Edward Hueneker, Michael Seraphinoff, Pete Little, Dorcas Young and Jean Nelson. Council member Marc Wilson was unable to attend.

### **Call To Order - Prescott called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.**

**1. Introductions, check in and agenda review:** Acknowledgement was made of the newest member of the Tilth Council – Pete Little.

**2. Announcements:**

- a. Prescott reminded everyone of the Beaumont-Badanés wedding happening the weekend of August 28-29. Prescott has been in touch with members of the wedding party to coordinate the usage of the Tilth campus for parking.
- b. Prescott informed everyone of the Grange-Slow Food Vegetable Smack down & Potluck being held August 21. Copy of the rules were passed out registration if anyone would be interested in participating.
- c. Prescott included in the agenda the dates that she will be away from Whidbey.
- d. A card for Bob Crane, the husband of a long-time vendor, recently taken ill, was passed around for anyone wishing to send him a few words of support.

**3. Minutes:** The minutes of the July 16th meeting were reviewed and motion to approve was made by Edward and seconded by Michael. All approved them.

**4. Committee reports**

**Finance report –**

The current balance sheet and profit and loss report were unavailable. Edward did report \$703.28 in savings, \$8,734.00 in checking, (an increase of over \$700 due largely to 3 very generous donations), and \$4,453.22 at Beneficial. In addition, he indicated a \$5.75 in interest earning on the \$10,000 of the Sustainability Fund recently moved to Coastal Community Bank.

He will check on the amount for the Food Stamps and whether it has been sent to us.

The donation in March from Nancy Nordhoff has been moved from a dedicated fund to the Garden

Tour

Money and will appear as a fixed asset until spent.

The expense for the recent installation of WiFi on the Tilth campus was a donation by Judy Bierman through Pete Little and Mokihana Calizar. Edward requested that receipts be turned into him as this will be an asset and will also need to be recorded as a donation.

**Market committee report -**

- **WiFi at the Market:** Pete reported that the installation is complete and internet service is available with a password. Pete and Mokihana will be participating in a teleconference of Pacific Islands this September and hope to hold it at Tilth via WiFi.

Dorcas has been using internet and WiFi to accept credit card purchases and she talked about the many options available. Prescott will look into the fee schedule connected with our existing PayPal account

and also check into the program Square for The Laughing Cat transactions. Pete suggested that their security history be looked at no matter what account we choose. Access to the internet can also be used by the workshop presenters, enhancing the educational opportunities at Tilth. A small charge for internet access could be added to the rental fee for any events at Tilth subsequently helping Tilth pay for the service. It was also discussed that the service could be shut off during the winter months if there is no demand.

- **Market revenue:** Market gross sales are down quite a bit. Prescott handed out an analysis of current year market revenue. The decline in sales could be due in part to the decreased number of vendors participating.
- **End of Season Party:** Molly & Mary Quade have volunteered to put on the end of the season party and is asking for volunteers and ideas.
- **Intern Proposal:** Tabled until September

### **Land Stewardship report -**

- **Tilth Entrance:** Dorcas expressed her vision for enhancing the overall appearance and customer impression of the Tilth Campus entrance. She will be looking into the general cleanup of the entrance including the clearing of brush for better visibility, new landscaping, a new sign, and storage shed area cleanup. She will then like to move into the campus area and begin by landscaping with mulch around the base of the trees, cleaning up the center area of the circle drive, etc.
- **Irrigation:** Pete Little reported that he needs a couple brass connections to the meters so they can be disconnected if we needed and to not be a permanent connection. He continues to move forward in finding the water lines and improving the water connections in the pea patch.

### **Education report –**

- **Classes & Programs:** Michael reminded everyone of the workshop with Janet Hall being offered August 23<sup>rd</sup> on Composting. He is hoping to offer a workshop on mushrooms. Anza will be holding a workshop on plant propagation through cuttings on September 12 and 13. Also on September 13 there will be a Vermiculture workshop offered. Because of the anticipated traffic from the Farm Tour on the 13<sup>th</sup>, it is hoped that the Market can remain open later than normal.
- **Pesticide Reduction Toolkit campaign:** Prescott showed the poster Tilth displayed during the Fair. It presented commercial non-toxic products available to control pests. Working with Bayview Farm and Garden, Tilth was able to showcase several products now available. Also available were several handouts covering individual pest problems and ways of controlling them.

### **Membership, Development, community relations –**

- **Sustainability Banquet:** The annual Tilth Sustainability Dinner and Raffle will be held on Thursday, September 3, 2015. Annaporne Colangelo is the lead coordinator with assistance from Anza and Marc. Weather permitting, the event will be held at the Tilth campus. Dinner will be potluck. Edward indicated that Dorcas was going to be asked to do the cooking of the main protein provided by Tilth with Tilth reimbursing her expenses. Edward will contact Annaporne concerning this. Vivian Stembridge has secured several wonderful items for the evening's raffle. Prescott distributed the list of raffle items to the Council. Council was impressed with the items already listed and was concerned that there be plenty of notice and invitations provided. Along with posters Marc and Anza will be emailing invitations to the membership. Andréa Linton purchased new tablecloths for all the tables. Brian Kenny will be the musician.

- **Newsletter:** Prescott indicated that the newsletter should be out this week.
- **BugaBay worm bin raffle:** The raffle is underway. Prescott handed out raffle tickets to sell. Drawing will be at the end of the Whidbey Island Farm Tour, 3:45 p.m. Sunday, September 13.

**Other business:**

- a. **Conflict of interest policy**— To ensure that decisions about South Whidbey Tilth operations and the use or disposition of South Whidbey Tilth assets are made solely in terms of the benefits to South Whidbey Tilth and are not influenced by any private profit or other personal benefit to the individual affiliated with the organization who take part in the decision, Council members will be asked to sign a Conflict of Interest Policy each year. All members present signed the form that will be kept in the Secretary Notebook.
- b. **Farm Tour Planning** - Whidbey Island Farm Tour is scheduled for September 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>. Tour hours are 10am to 4pm. Michael, Prescott and Anza attended the kick-off meeting. Prescott has ordered the signs for event parking. The first Whidbey Island Farm Tour Tilth participated in was in 2006. Farm Tour attendance has been declining so for future years it has been decided to stagger the Tour events in hopes that this will enable attendance to more of the events. The mission of the Farm Tour is to educate the community about our local farms and the good stewardship practices used by our farmers, and to promote the benefits of locally grown food, fiber and products and to assist our farms in sustainability, marketing and publicity efforts. Tilth campus will again have an antique tractor and old car display from Jim Lux. Each of the Farm Tour participants was interviewed about their history and a write-up will be on display. Tilth was one of the first to be interviewed. Prescott has begun to gather volunteers to assist during the two-day event. Dorcas will not be available the 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>, but will see to it that the Lesedi hoop house tour and the food vendor tent will be taken care of in her absence. The call will go out for volunteers to provide music the 13<sup>th</sup>.
- c. **N.W. Language Academy** – Northwest Language Academy expressed their sincere thanks to all who volunteered their time spent devoted to the visiting Japanese families. Thanks to Dorcas, Linda, Chris Williams, Pam, Gary, Michael, Prescott and to anyone else involved.
- d. **Next Meeting** – It was decided that the September meeting will be held in the Tilth classroom. Prescott will notify Trinity Lutheran Church that we would begin meeting there in October.

**Call for Adjournment** — the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Jean Nelson*