

South Whidbey Tilt Business Meeting Minutes September 17, 2015

The business meeting of South Whidbey Tilt was held in the Nursery Room at Trinity Lutheran Church in Freeland.

Attending were council members Prescott, Edward Hueneke, 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 6:40 p.m.

1. Introductions, check in and agenda review:

Prescott indicated that at the end of the meeting she would be asking each Council member to share their goals for the rest of the year as we wrap up the 2015 activities.

2. Announcements:

Prescott reminded everyone that she and Michael will be out of town October 28-Nov 2 and then again Nov 5-15.

3. Minutes: The minutes of the August 18th meeting were reviewed and motion to approve was made by Edward and seconded by Michael. All approved them.

4. Committee reports

Finance report –

1) Edward addressed the open issue of non-payment from Food Stamps. They had not been notified of the change from Wells Fargo to Heritage Bank. Edward has completed the necessary paperwork and payment will be made upon receipt. BALANCE SHEET - General Fund as of 9-18 is \$9,459.26. The \$836.50 noted in Drip Irrigation is a combination of 2 dedicated amounts. Edward emphasized that all money spent in this line item must be tracked and receipts presented. There was some question as to why there is \$129 showing in the Market Manager till. Edward will investigate and report. Sustainability Fund balance is \$14,465.35. This amount includes a \$10,000 CD with Coastal Bank, and a savings account and a CD with Beneficial. PROFIT AND LOSS – The Events/Raffles line item is showing \$39 as of 8-31. Money from the recent Worm Bin raffle (\$170), Sustainability Banquet Raffle (\$179) and several general donations were added after that date. He noted that Education is doing quite well this year with expenses coming in at less than last year's numbers. Market is also doing better with expenses about \$900 less than income. Edward will look into the makeup of the \$400 listed in Grant (Garden Tour Grant) expense line item. There was some discussion on whether Tilt will be fully funding the Sunday Market music.

2) Judy Thomas won the BugaBay worm bin at the Banquet. Dorcas volunteered to deliver the bin to Judy.

3) Internal Audit – It's time again for the annual internal audit. It was decided that Prescott will ask John Lee.

Market committee report -

- **WiFi at the Market:** Prescott reported that Tilt now has WiFi and voice mail. Prescott has tested the voice mail system. A voice mail notification alert is then sent to the Tilt email address.

WhidbeyTel has agreed to donate \$39.95 of the \$49.95 DSL charge & the \$9.95 Voice Mail charge until August 2016. This will be recorded as a donation on our books and a copy of the correspondence from WhidbeyTel will be included in the minutes.

- Farm Tour -

Prescott reported that there were over 180 visitors on Saturday the 12th and 134 on Sunday the 13th.

This number is down by almost half from 2014 numbers. Possible reasons for the low attendance were discussed. This may be the last year for the overall Farm Tour as it has been presented and it was questioned as to whether Tilth will want to participate in 2016. Discussion and a decision will be made before application time. Prescott expressed appreciation to all the volunteers who gave of their time and energy to make our part of the tour successful. The classes on plant propagation and vermaculture during the tour were very well attended.

- **Market revenue:** Market gross sales are down. As of September 6, sales for 2015 are at \$27,806 compared to \$34,270 for 2014.

- **End of Season Party:** Molly & Mary Quade have volunteered to put on the end of the season party. The party will be held October 25 after the last Sunday market closes. Normally Tilth is the last market to close and an invitation is extended to all the other market vendors, but this year Bayview market will be open October 31. Prescott will call a Market Committee meeting to discuss. Additional posters will be displayed in the ferry areas indicating that Tilth Market will be open through October.

- **Intern Proposal:** Tabled until October

Land Stewardship report -

- **Tilth Entrance:** Dorcas expressed thanks to Pete and Edward for doing the clean-up around the storage shed. Dorcas is hoping to be able to volunteer more with Land Stewardship after the market closes. She will start with the trees and bushes at the entrance. Pete will work on the hydrants inside the Pea Patch and install the meters before winter. Pete has found someone who will detect water source. It's time to retire the tiller currently housed in the garden shed. It is leaking gasoline. There are 2 other tillers available currently being housed off-campus. The tiller being stored at Marc Wilson's home will be brought in and stored. There was discussion around mowing and whether it would be profitable to purchase an in-house mower for Tilth. There would then be storage needed and there was talk about how that could be accomplished. Dorcas will begin to gather information about the possibility of applying to Hearts and Hammers do the storage shed construction.

- **Bees –** Jean mentioned that there is a swarm of bees around the compost pile inside the Pea Patch. She will make a sign alerting everyone to the danger.

Education report –

- **Classes & Programs:** Classes have been very good this year and have been well attended. Ida will offer a workshop on mushrooms September 20 at 1pm. Four people have signed up so far and Michael distributed promotional flyers for distribution. Michael is hoping to have a seed saving program yet this season.

- **Live streaming Honolulu conference –** Pete updated the council on the details of the upcoming live stream event. The event will begin on September 25 through September 27 and will begin around noon on the 25th. Pete and Mokihana will set up a screen and speakers in the Laughing Cat area for viewing. The event will be on Ancient Hawaiian Moon Practices in regard to climate change. Prescott will contact Mokihana about who will be invited and if she can help.

Membership, Development, Community Relations –

- **Sustainability Banquet:** The annual Tilth Sustainability Banquet and Raffle was held on September 3, 2015. The raffle was a big success and brought in \$179. At the last minute the event had to be moved inside due to weather.

- **Newsletter -** Prescott indicated the newsletter was still in process and hopes to have it completed by the end of this week.

Other Business:

Equipment Rental Agreement – Council was given version 2 of the Equipment Rental Agreement with the new Tilth telephone number, space for renter information, and a clause concerning details of member rental discount. Motion was made and seconded to accept the agreement. Motion passed.

Eco-Net – A volunteer is needed to represent Tilth at the Eco-Net meetings. Meetings take place at Pacific Rim.

Council Goals – Prescott asked the members to share if they would like, some of the goals they may have for the remainder of the year:

Prescott – complete the 501C3 application – get another newsletter or two by the end of the year – implement the internship.

Pete – help coordinate class visit and help establish internship – on-going maintenance.

Jean - organize file cabinets and papers in classroom.

Michael – Find more groups to use the Tilth facilities.

Call for Adjournment – the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Nelson, Secretary