

South Whidbey Tilth Business Meeting Minutes October 15, 2015

Present: Prescott, Ed, Pete, Michael, Ted, Louise

Prescott called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Freeland. Michael agreed to take minutes and Prescott made a recording.

Minutes were approved from September 17 meeting.

Finance committee report.

We looked at balance sheets. A small loss this year, \$58, as compared with last year, when we had a \$4,000 donation for tractors, all to the plus side of the ledger.

Ted will see if he can get us someone to do the annual internal audit.

Market Report:

gross sales as of Oct. 11, 2015, \$32,670, below 2014 and 2013, but better than 2012 when the market only made \$32,414. It was pointed out that 2015 and 2012 were both years that we operated the market without a paid manager. (Prior to 2012 we didn't have a paid manager. The new manager in 2012 successfully increased vendor and customers during the two years she managed the market. Kirstin continued to build the market in 2014 -P)

The end of year party will include a pumpkin carving contest. Linda Good and the kids playing music and more. There will be a craft tent. And Louise will have a watercolor paint activity for kids. Mary Quade will bring a cake. Louise also may bring cup cakes. \$25 was approved for craft supplies for the last market.

Prescott discussed the intern program. Susie Richards of Econet suggested to her that we share an Americorps intern next year. Our cost would be \$1500, and we get 20 hours work a week. Could fit in with past intern proposals and a generous benefactor's offer of help. The Council is interested. So Prescott will explore the possibilities with Susie on the 16th.

Land Stewardship Report:

Pete has removed the old tiller from the shed and replaced it with one donated by Marc Wilson. He also got some repair work done on the new tiller. \$26 reimbursement approved. Pete has enlisted Jake, a young fellow some of us are getting to know, to help him with some plumbing work.

We are in need of mowing on the larger fields. Ideas are being flown, and we are on the lookout for a riding mower that could do this, or help from tractor owners with mowers.

Dorcas is exploring the possibilities of Hearts and Hammers help with construction of an equipment shed.

Yellow jackets should not be a further problem this year. But next year we will need to be more vigilant about them. Several nests were found this year that posed a risk to land users. (The nest in the garden is ground hornets, a much more dangerous bee-type.)

Education:

Our programs for this year are over. There were some very good ones. The most recent was Ida's mushroom class. Michael will be soliciting advice in an upcoming newsletter article. Ed suggested that we have an on-going garden question and answer program at next year's market.

The alternative pesticide tool kit presented at the fair this year can be offered to retailers and can also be presented at Sound Waters, Earth Ocean, etc. it is a big project for Tilth, but a good one if we can muster the energy and resources.

Membership:

Marc has resigned as Membership chair on the Council, distribution of his duties is necessary. Prescott laid out the duties, which includes maintaining membership lists, organizing the sustainability banquet, etc. Michael has offered to do the fundraising letter. He will get it out for critiques by the first week of November toward a mailing in early December. Prescott will be maintaining the membership lists for now. But we will need to approach possible candidates from among the membership for the unfilled three to four council positions for next year.

Newsletter is in progress.

Ed has agreed to accept the offer of his membership being provided at no cost to him this year. This is in response to our unhappiness at the misunderstanding over moving costs of Dean's donated piano.

Other business. The Native Plant Stewards are moving their operations north. There may be possibilities of a compatible project to replace their project. We need to advertise the possibility to our members and the larger community.

Dorcas sent us a report on the Whidbey Island Food System Coalition meeting this month. Prescott read it to us. "The focus is on local foods, there was mention of someone will be hosting a class. The lady [Ellen Gray of Washington Sustainable Food and Farming Network] who spoke lobbies legislature in Olympia regarding this matter of foods grown in Washington. Also schools with the Farm to School Project school to be encouraged to buy from local farmers in their communities. A draft that was presented and it is still being developed with a collection of information from different counties. She is asking for support to get it to Olympia for the farm bill proposed for small farmers. She also mentioned there has been a change in the farm bill regarding crop insurance that is good for everyone without that exclusion and the specific crops now is broader.

Holiday party planning. Michael will see if Anza and Marc will host us again this year in mid December.

501(c) 3 paper work, Prescott and Ed will be discussing this further. They seem to know the most about what needs to be done and how to accomplish obtaining our own status with the dissolution of Washington Tilth.

Call to adjourn accepted at about 8:40 p.m.

Minutes by Michael Seraphinoff