

## **Minutes – South Whidbey Tilth Annual Meeting – January 17, 2015**

The annual membership meeting of South Whidbey Tilth met in Trinity Lutheran Church's Grigware Hall.

**President Susan Prescott** called the business meeting to order at 3:30 pm. Prescott welcomed everyone and introduced the current Council trustees. Current Council members are Edward Hueneke, Marc Wilson, Tom White, Jean Nelson and Susan Prescott. She complimented absent Council member Kirsten Clauson for her leadership and hard work last year as Land Steward and Market Manager. The slate of trustees that have agreed to run again are Edward Hueneke, and Marc Wilson. Dorcas Young and Michael Seraphinoff have stepped forward as nominees for the vacant positions #5 and #8. With less than the required 15-member quorum present to move forward with the nomination and election of Trustees, it was decided to delay this portion until later in the meeting.

### **Annual Report – Prescott**

Prescott shared that 2014 was a good year for Tilth. She thanked the Council members and volunteers for their contribution the past year. Prescott presented seed packet ornaments filled with seed grown, harvested and donated by Eric Conn of Full Cycle Farm to the Council members as well as Linda Good, J.C. May and Michael Seraphinoff.

**The By-laws** were amended this year and Prescott thanked Marc Wilson for his assistance in working with her on this project. Prescott also thanked member Cleveland Hall for her help in clarifying the language covering the rules for voting by email by the Council.

South Whidbey Tilth was part of the **Whidbey Island Farm Tour** this year and it was a huge success. She thanked the many volunteers for their work during this time and indicated there were over 500 visitors to the Tilth campus during the 2-day tour. Jim Lux organized an antique tractor show, there was a soap making demonstration, a pizza oven, and a workshop on cultivating propagation among the many offerings. Tilth again took an active part in the 2014 **Whidbey Island Fair** and began implementing a **water conservation** program funded by grants from Eco-Net's Puget Sound Starts Here and the Whidbey Island Garden Tour by installing drip irrigation in the garden plots.

The Sunday Farmer's Market was held for 26 weeks, 1 week less than 2013, but gross sales were up approximately \$3,000 to \$43,230, and the average visitor count was 233 up from 171.

### **Market – Tom White**

Tom indicated that sales were up by \$3,000 from the previous year as well as an increase in the average number of visitors. The Market Committee has met to begin formulating the 2014 details for the 2015 market. The vendor meeting is set for February 12 at 7pm. The committee agreed to the May 3<sup>rd</sup> thru October 25<sup>th</sup> proposed market dates. Tom asked for a volunteer to fill the Market Manager position. He also asked for any ideas or suggestions for activities, music or entertainment.

### **Financial – Edward Hueneke**

Edward began by explaining why he is a part of Tilth. The Tilth Mission statement is a big part of that. The statement includes a mission of equitable, sustainable agriculture. He believes that we as a nation need an alternative food system and Tilth's existence providing education and information is very important.

Tilth's financial situation is secure. An internal audit was conducted by John Lee. He assured us that everything is functioning appropriately. The budget for Tilth is approximately \$18,500 in both expenses and revenue. Edward stated that for the first time in 5 or 6 years Tilth had more income than expenses by approximately \$4,000. The additional income came through an \$890 Garden Tour grant, an Eco-Net grant for \$852 and the sale of several donated tractors.

Membership is approximately 160 accounting for approximately \$2,500. The annual letter generates around \$3,500. There is income from the Tilth Community Garden's pea patch rental and Lesedi Farm. \$5,400 a year goes to the property loan with approximately 11 years until Tilth land will be free and clear.

The assets were revalued last year bringing the net worth to \$220,624 of which \$136,000 is for the land.

### **Education – Michael Seraphinoff**

Michael spoke about the programs and workshops last year and is pulling together the 2015 workshop schedule. He is hoping to present a wild craft workshop sometime soon. The monthly film/potluck continues through the winter.

### **Membership/Communication – Marc Wilson**

Marc stated that one of the goals of Membership/Communication is to increase membership and to support the current 160 Tilth members to get more involved in Tilth and it's sustainability mission. He talked about the evening's door prizes and made sure that all those present had a ticket.

### **Nomination and Election - Prescott**

With the quorum of 16 members now present Prescott presented the slate of Council members: #3 Edward Hueneke-Treasurer, #5 Dorcas Young-Land Steward, #7 Marc Wilson-Membership/Community Relations, and #8 Michael Seraphinoff-Education. Prescott asked for nominations from the floor including a volunteer to run for the #6 Vice president position. Hearing none, a motion was made and seconded to close the slate of nominations. Prescott asked if voting preference was secret ballot, show of hands, or voice. A show of hands was taken and the slate of nominees was elected.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm

Prescott then introduced the speaker for the evening Lori Taylor. Her program "What's the Harm in Genetically Engineered Foods?" was attended by approximately 28 people.

A potluck followed the program and door prize drawings completed the evening.

Respectively submitted  
Jean Nelson, Secretary