

Minutes to April 21, 2016 Tilth meeting

Present: Council members Prescott, Edward Hueneke, Pete Little, Judy Kaplan, Dorcas Young and Michael Seraphinoff; Tilth members J.C. May and Albert Foster and intern Angie Hart. The meeting began at approximately 6:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church's annex in Freeland.

Ed gave a finance report that nothing has changed in the budget, but there were a few expenses, such as \$190 for education, and Tilth spent \$63.16 for the map (but there was an initial \$1700 outlay for the Whidbey Island map that will be reimbursed.) Approximately \$225 has been received for market space fees so far this year.

Angie gave a report on the market and described all of what she is doing.

Albert Foster, who has approached Tilth with a proposal to donate the cost to advance our project with new fencing, introduced himself at the meeting. He has a background in ecosystems analysis, (M.S.) and he has a broad background in environmentally sound agriculture. He just returned to the island after being an avocado grower in California. He wants to get much more involved in agriculture here.

Pete reported on the interview he Prescott and Angie had with the Farm Intern Pilot Project coordinator Kelly Kane on April 11 and the importance of urging the legislature to continue it beyond 2017.

Judy offered a market report. She talked about a calendar of events that includes market clean up on Sunday, April 24, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Prescott mentioned the promotion of the market in the Puget Sound Fresh Guide and a Whidbey Island Agriculture map. The grass is being mowed today by Lisa McCoy and husband Matt, who are doing it for free, but may offer a bid if Bob and nephew don't continue this year. Ed is open to having other food vendors consider using the pavilion kitchen in his place, if someone comes in and shows such an interest. But he is willing to continue again this year, but he will be gone much of October.

Prescott reported on the Earth Day program that Tilth will participate in at Bayview on Saturday the 23rd of April. Pete and Albert will help bring over tents before the event.

Michael gave an Education Report. He mentioned our previous classes, and the future classes: J.C. May's weed control class will be on May 15 at 1 p.m. Then there will be a Tilth and Conservation District water use program led by Rob Hallbauer and Marc Wilson. And the same day, May 21, there will be a Swarm Against Monsanto action in Langley, and on Sunday the 22 we will have a bee education day at the market. And on Sunday, June 12 at 1 p.m. Eric Conn will teach a seed saving class.

We then talked about the fence proposal. Albert discussed his offer of fencing and the benefits of a cleaned up, sturdier, more aesthetic fence around the community garden (with hardware cloth buried along the perimeter). He also mentioned the benefit of a split rail, aesthetic fence for the land approach (at the entry and defining the parking area). Prescott asked for approval of the fencing committee's proposal as outlined above. It was approved by the council, with Albert's request to be allowed to negotiate pricing with the fence builders.

Pete discussed hot water in the bathrooms. He talked to Lance Moore, the electrician, about working up an estimate for installing an on demand system. We can discuss this once we have an estimate. He will also look into wiring for Dorcas's refrigeration.

Albert has offered to do the septic inspection for us. He has some good background and is very concerned about preventing pollution. The council approved.

Pete has asked to have some \$500 toward the composting area creation in advance of the grant money that will arrive in August. All agreed.

Agenda items concerning the Sustainability Banquet and farm and garden tour tabled due to lack of time.

Notes by Michael