

The meeting was called to order by President Prescott at 6:49 p.m. in the classroom on the South Whidbey Tilth Sustainability Campus. Other council trustees present were Michael Seraphinoff, Fred Rouge, Pete Little, Judy Kaplan and Dorcas Young; member J.C. May was also. Michael agreed to take notes, but the meeting will be recorded. Edward Hueneke is out of town.

Announcements were made about Slow Food Whidbey Island's Jam Making Workshop, July 26 and about South Whidbey Tilth's member farm tour to Deep Harvest Farm on Wednesday, July 27 at 5 p.m. followed by a potluck at Tilth.

Minutes: Fred moved to approve the minutes of June 16, 2016 business meeting. Judy seconded and all approved them as written.

Committee reports

Finance report – The finance officer is away. The finance report provided by our bookkeeper was reviewed. Michael noted a savings since no newsletter has gone out. Vivian Stembridge has agreed to help manage membership renewals. Costs for mowing costs are lower this year thanks to exceptional volunteers Marc Wilson and Albert Foster.

Market

State of the market – as of the July 10 market, gross sales are only \$500 lower than last year. Sales commission totals exceed those of last year. Judy needs clarification for communicating market needs with membership. Prescott explained how committee chairs are urged to send her announcements and she will format them for electronic communicator Marc Wilson. In lieu of a printed newsletter, these notices are emailed to the membership every week or two. Chatty stuff is fine.

SNAP EBT – Prescott reported South Whidbey Tilth now has a machine to take Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly food stamps) cards. It has processed cards manually at the market for some years. She displayed the sheet vendors should give customers to use to list purchases. The SNAP customers bring the sheet to Prescott, Edward or Angie to process and vendors get paid from the Market Manager's petty cash. Dorcas asked for a sign.

Market Signage: Judy noted the trees are so high her husband can't see market signs. A discussion followed about what signage is allowed for Tilth's zoning. Banners and signs are only allowed 24 hours before the event, so the flags, banners and letters are put up Saturday afternoon. Judy is interested in making the letters higher and will work on it with her husband. All are encouraged to distribute fliers, rack cards and Puget Sound Fresh Farm Guides promoting the market.

Land Stewardship

Farm Stand status – Dorcas reported her cash box was broken open and cash stolen in early July. She needs to repair the cash box, put a padlock on it and mount it before she can reopen the stand. Other farm stands also have difficulty with stealing.

The electrical bill for extending the line to the refrigerator was over \$300. Dorcas will pay \$50 over the next three months and Tilth will pay the other half. Some community gardeners are interested in using the farm stand. There will be Tilth-grown produce. Dorcas will work with Angie to coordinate community gardeners use of the stand.

Tilth produce policy draft – For review, Judy read the discussion from the June minutes describing the intent. Prescott showed the first draft and it was tweaked to read:

Tilth Grown Produce

Tasting is welcome, but please don't harvest the fruit from the community gardens and orchard, unless you are authorized. Otherwise please leave a donation.

Community gardeners work hard to produce food for their own families. The produce in common areas is for sale. This

money is used to help sustain this land. Your help to harvest for sale at the Tilth Farmers' Market or the Farm Stand is welcome. Join us at a Tuesday work party, 2 to 6 p.m. to harvest.

Discussion included how to describe it in the Farm Stand and how to keep each participant's earning separate. Perhaps a suggested donation of \$3 per pound. Dorcas suggested taking a picture and posting on Drew's list. Dorcas is at the farm early Monday and Tuesday, sometimes Wednesday. By Thursday she has to be cooking for weekend markets etc.

The intent of a sign is to make visitors aware that produce is being grown for a purpose. Signs could be laminated and posted in the orchard, gardens and by the walnut tree. Dorcas suggested specific signage in the Farm Stand and at the market. Michael is likely to sell the produce from his booth for Tilth.

[Pete had noted that the crab apple tree by the restroom has a graft with large apples as well as the crab apples.]

Compost structure status – Pete reported the form is being built and the rebar purchased. He will call a work party when he is ready, but has a trip away first. The work will likely be in a week. He plans to haul 60-pound sacks of concrete to use in a small cement mixer. Members will be alerted as to the day.

Hot water in the bathrooms – Pete is following up.

Work party status — Prescott reported a notice is on Drew's List now about Tuesday work days. She and Angie cleared the rose bushes around the scarecrow sculpture in the driveway turnaround. Pete has a chipper that can be used to breakdown compost material for the new compost facility. Angie makes good meals for worker volunteers.

Water System management report – Tilth received a letter from the County indicating our three water tests are behind schedule. Edward is following up with a person willing to oversee and complete these tests. Her fee is modest. With rotating land stewards it is difficult to be sure the tests are being done in a timely manner. A proposal will come to the council shortly.

Education — Michael reported we had some very good programs. Tom's hot composting class was very popular. He is hopeful the classes can be better attended by having them during or after the market. Tom Vincent's hand out about how to make hot compost is on the Tilth website. Julie Charette Nunn's class is Sunday in Jody's booth.

Whidbey Area Fair display – Prescott reported Tom has prepared material she will layout for a poster. Tom will provide display materials and the BugaBay worm bin will be on display too. It's not clear that raffle tickets can be sold at the fair.

Tilth and Deer Lagoon Grange steward the department for vegetables, fruits, herbs, compost and honey. Tilth member Pam Nodus is calling for help stewarding the department with Grange volunteers. Everyone is urged to contact her. Judy reported she will help steward and will also help with judging. More volunteers are also needed to accept and judge entries on Tuesday before the fair. Stewards engage the public, keep the area tidy and encourage visitors to vote for the People's Choice Garden Critters.

Dorcas reports she has amazing potatoes this year and will arrange to have them ready to be entered but needs help with the process of entering. Prescott reviewed how the Premium List works, emphasizing the importance of reading the rules.

J.C. will send Prescott material about the Native Plant Salvage Facility tomorrow.

Membership, Development, Community Relations

Sustainability Banquet is August 18, Thursday. Slow Food Whidbey Island is collaborating. A committee is needed to organize and to prepare the raffle, prepare the invitation, pickup tables, food arrangements, menu, etc. There will be no business meeting in August as the party is the day the meeting is normally held. Perhaps chicken can be the meat entrée since salmon is in low supply. Angie is preparing a tofu-based entrée.

Pete is handling raffle prizes and so far has four tickets for lunch at Senior Center; a medicine story from Mokihana ; J.C. will do an invasive plant survey at a home. He will provide a list of total prizes. Pete welcomes others to look for prizes. A form is available as a thank-you note and provides the donor with tax deduction information for their donation.

Other business:

Insurance company change – Prescott reported that our Northsound insurance agent has retired and sold the business to PLC Insurance, located in Lynnwood. The transition should be seamless. Our market vendor policy and other documents should reflect the change in future documents.

Honoring Marlene Will – She died about a week ago. Few of the current board members knew Marlene and Michael and Prescott briefly described some of the significant contributions she and her husband, Eric contributed to Tilth. They were very involved with Tilth from the mid 1990s. Eric as a civil engineer was particularly helpful with ideas to develop the newly purchased Tilth campus. It has been suggested that a walnut tree be planted in the fall in their honor. Also past president Charlis Dunham died in June. A Garry oak has been dedicated to her husband Jerry. The oak next to it will be dedicated in her honor.

Adjournment – the meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m. (The next regular meeting is Thursday, September 15 at Trinity Lutheran annex at 6:30 p.m. with a 6 p.m. potluck.)