

## South Whidbey Tilth Business Meeting March 16, 2017

**Present:** Council members Prescott, Andréa Linton, Judy Kaplan, Edward Hueneke, Angie Hard and Fred Rouge; general members J.C. May, Michael Seraphinoff and Ida Gianopulos

**Minutes** from last meeting, February 16, 2017, were approved.

**Internship interviews:** Prescott reported that Angie, Dorcas, J.C. and Prescott met with two of the four applicants and recommend by email the council on March 9 that we invite Elise. Prescott contacted her and she emailed questions about housing. There have been several Tilth members who have offered housing with some work trade involved. No word from Elise as of the meeting today. The last contact was Monday March 13. We asked Prescott to send a message saying that she needs to let us know if she is coming by Monday, March 20. Otherwise we will need to consider another of our candidates for the position.

**Finances:** Edward gave a report of finances. No surprises. Ed thinks we ought to consider a Port grant this year. We haven't applied very recently. [Research is needed about this prior to the next meeting.]

He also mentioned that we will need another septic inspection this year, but Prescott recommended that it be done in September when it is drier. The nursery license has been renewed. There was a reminder that all new Council members must sign a conflict of interest form.

**Market report** from Judy. She is working on a form that will allow Bayview vendors to drop off craft or produce items for sale at our market through a special booth staffed by volunteers from the Tilth membership. The agreement would return 75% of sales to the original producer. The rest will give 15% to the Tilth volunteer and 10% will go to Tilth. Judy is sending a copy of the form/agreement to all of the Council to study.

Judy also is working on signs for the market that will promote what we have to offer from week to week.

Work party on March 18<sup>th</sup> update. There will likely be rain, but we will do what we can, starting at 10 a.m. rain or shine. There is work that can't be done due to the weather, so we will do some planning on the 18<sup>th</sup> to have further work parties.

Prescott raised the issue of an increase in the Farmers' Market Association membership fee from \$75 to \$200. The vote was for paying the \$200 fee.

Prescott showed around a copy of the Whidbey Island page of farms and farmers' markets for the Tilth Alliance Farm Guide to be promoted through a location map and a description of the local farms. It will be distributed statewide in print and available on the Tilth Alliance website and through a mobile app.

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**New incubator farm:** David Prisbrey, who is interested in leasing Tilth land, will join us for the market work party on the 18<sup>th</sup> as a result of council members asking to meet him. He will pursue his own insurance plus appreciate anything available through Tilth. The group really wants to facilitate his farming, but we need to clarify the boundaries of our tax-exempt land, probably this will require refilling with the state and county. Ida will go over our existing agreement with Prescott to try and determine what the present contract states and what might need changing if David farms the corner he is interested in farming. No contract can be signed until this is resolved to the satisfaction of the Council because we can't risk a fine/penalty for a violation of our contract.

**Yard Sale:** Pete and Mokihana would like to hold a Saturday yard sale. A small percentage will go to Tilth. All agreed.

**Tuesday, April 11** will be our next Council meeting, because Prescott will be away for the regular business meeting date, which would have been April 20.

**Council appointment:** Ida Gianopulos was voted onto the Council by acclamation. She is interested in being the land stewardship committee chair. She will take Pete Little's place on the council.

**Planning for the year:** There is a need for a settled date for the Sustainability Banquet in August. Council members were asked to consider dates that they think would work best. Slow Food Whidbey Island is interested in participating with us again.

Prescott handed out a list of events through the year. Angie pointed out that advanced planning toward such events will always be needed.

**Education report** from Angie. There are no reported sign ups for the Sunday Garden Seed and Sowing Class, but we anticipate some will show up without contacting us based upon past interest.

Meeting adjourned.

Notes by Michael Seraphinoff