

South Whidbey Tilth Business Meeting September 21, 2017

The meeting was called to order at about 6:10 p.m. in the Nursery of the Trinity Lutheran Church community building in Freeland. Council members present were resident Prescott, Edward Hueneke, Fred Rouge, Ida Gianopulos and Angie Hart. Andréa Linton was unable to come. Others include member Michael Seraphinoff and intern Emma Geiger.

Minutes of the July 11 meeting were approved as written. Michael volunteered to take notes again.

Finance Report by Edward:

At this time last year we had \$30,450 total funds. This year we have \$22,899. We had a number of unexpected expenses this year such as Cedar Grove Compost and a new cook stove and batteries for the solar electric system in the kitchen.

Edward will explore Coastal Bank's latest certificates of deposit toward gaining interest on the \$10,000 sustainability accounts. We are lower in funds this year but we will still have adequate funds.

He raised a concern that our electricity bills are considerably higher this year and Prescott will study the leases for Dorcas and David to determine what they have agreed to pay for electricity and Fred and Ed will try and determine how much electricity they are using. There is an understanding that they should both have been metering their water use. Dorcas had a meter that apparently hasn't been working and David is researching to buy one.

We have had an offer of equipment from Richard Curdy and Lynn Geri – a Kubota Tractor and a Riding Mower. The council has agreed that they would like to have this equipment. Prescott will contact Richard and Lynn and provide them with a tax-write-off slip. We will research ways to move the equipment to the Tilth land and find or build a shelter for this equipment.

Market report from Emma:

Last market events: October 1 Salsa event, musician will be Danny Ward. Maybe a dessert potluck, possibly with a little debriefing of vendors.

Market cleanup is not scheduled, but we will plan one.

Farewell to Emma

Future-of-the-market discussion, next meeting Wednesday Oct. 4, 6 to 7:30p.m.

It may be a potluck. Prescott will check on getting us use of the Bayview School room that evening.

Education events from Angie

Soil Biology class will be held at Tilth 9 am to noon. Sept. 23

Hot composting class is after the market on Sunday, Sept 24

Tilth Film Night begins next Sunday October 1, at 6:00 pm, featuring the film "Sustainable" at Mark & Melissa's.

Virtual tour of the Sustainable Integrated Homestead Farm of Gary Ingram and Pam Nodus. Tuesday, October 3 at 6:30 pm at the Freeland Library.

“Cultivating Kids”, 2 p.m. Wed. at the Freeland Library, as part of Whidbey Island Grown Week.

Seattle Tilth Garden Guide-based study group will meet on October 18 at 7 p.m. at the Bayview School classroom.

The publication of the next Tilth newsletter is underway. Emma, Angie and Prescott have articles they are writing for the newsletter.

Nominating Committee

Prescott called for the appointment of a committee to look for candidates to fill even number positions 2,4 6 and 8. Michael volunteered and will invite Andréa. Fred and Ida have agreed to run again for positions 2 and 6. Fred is currently vice president. Ida finished Pete Little’s term as land steward and she would like to continue with that duty.

Financial audit: We are searching for a person to do the annual finance audit. The person does not need to be an accountant, just familiar with good bookkeeping practices.

Reviewing the calendar for Maintenance and Activites: a septic inspection is required on the land between October and September. Edward will contact the Gabeleins for this. Other duties include a market clean up day in October (maybe a Saturday or Sunday with some food served). November tasks include budget creation, nominations need to be made and submitted to November meeting, and land clean up (hoses rolled up, water turned off etc.)

Land stewardship from Ida: Ida will try to figure out how to begin selling Cedar Grove compost to members of Tilth (outside of the community garden). There may be a notice in the newsletter that lets members know how to get the compost, at a cost per cubic yard slightly greater than that offered to the community gardeners. We also need to arrange harvest and use for the Tilth fruit that is growing this fall.

T-Shirts for Tilth by Emma:

We have been debating a catchy line to include with the logo. Frontrow Creative in Langley has submitted a couple of designs and an estimate. The cost is great enough to require we presell at least half of the shirts before we can submit an order. Emma asked that someone else be appointed to take on this task as her internship is ending October 6. No action taken at this time.

The Tilth Alliance conference registration deadline of September 30 was announced. Anza may attend and Prescott will approach Whidbey Island Grown about a Whidbey Table in the Trade Show. The cost is \$250.

Task Force needed for Caretaker cottage: A discussion about task force for creation of a caretaker cottage will be tabled for now.

2018 Internship: Prescott is exploring intern sharing with South Whidbey School District for 2018 with Cary Peterson next Wednesday at 4 pm at the South Whidbey School Garden.

Adjourned at 8:06 pm.

By Michael Seraphinoff