

South Whidbey Tilth Business Meeting

Thursday, November 16 at 6 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church Community Building, Nursery

Ida, Edward, Andrea, Angie, Judy, Prescott, Michael, Pete and JC present. Called to order 6:07 p.m.

1. We approved minutes of October 19 meeting as written
2. Announcements:
 - a. The Holiday Party at MAHA Farm and Forest is 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 30. Potluck, white elephant gift exchange, games and conversation. White Elephant gift value should be no more than \$10. We'll plan to take a group photo for Emma.
 - b. Prescott passed on greetings from Emma who arrive home in early November
3. Finance Report – Edward

Ed reports that we will be about \$8,000 in the red this year (based upon our planned budget for the year) by the end of the year. We still have our sustainability fund as a small buffer (\$14,533). The proposed budget has a possible deficit of anywhere from \$1,800 plus. At that rate the Sustainability Fund will be exhausted in eight years when we make our final land payment. The intern this year is expected to cost \$7,500. But that cost must be met by donations or we won't be able to have an intern. A number of fundraising ideas are being explored.
4. **Motion approved:** The trustees and members at the November 16, 2017 business meeting of South Whidbey Tilth voted to empower President Susan Prescott to vote for Karen Bishop to represent us on the Skagit-Island-San Juan County FSA (Farm Service Agency) Committee.
5. The draft of the annual fundraising letter received review and a number of suggestions were made. Ida will send Andréa examples of letters that “work” for fundraising. Then Andréa will create a draft outline that others (Ed, Angie, Prescott and others) will review and add to. Angie will work on getting a good quote from Emma. We will also ask for a quote from Dorcas for the letter.
6. Prescott offered an internship update. There are two applicants to date. The deadline is December 15th. Prescott is working on grant writing. (Ed suggested that she get help from members with expertise.) She will also be asking for help again this year from past donors to the Tilth internship.
7. Holiday fundraising events include:the Giving Tree ornaments and participation in the Global Giving Market.
 - a. We will participate in the Giving Tree at Bayview Cash Store and Island Athletic Club. The agreed upon proposal for the ornaments: Seeds donated by Dorcas will need to be put in seed packets that will need printing, folding, gluing and maybe painting. Prescott will update the design and pass the information on to Angie who will work on composing the information on the seeds that will go on the packets. There will be a get together to do this on Tuesday, November 28. Hopefully at the Freeland Library at 6 p.m. Ornaments must be delivered with literature and a basket for each site on November 30.
 - b. We chose not to participate in the Global Giving Fair at Langley United Methodist Church this year.
 - c. We will make available Holiday Trees from both sides of the Tilth right of way (about 12) for sale. This will be done by having volunteers available on Saturdays, 10 to 2, and promote them for sale during the Bayview Holiday Market. Andréa will take a picture for advertising for Drew's list and Prescott will post on Facebook, the website, Tilth

members, etc. Pete and Prescott will work on harvesting the trees. Some can be U-dig or U-cut.

8. Market

- a. Judy asked for funds in the budget for a roadside sign about our market. Discussion followed about effective signage. We may post sandwich boards on the highway next season. Ed offered to help keep the vegetation cut so the signs stand out. Volunteers are needed to get the signs out. Funds for a WSDOT sign may be pursued in grant applications.
- b. Future-of-the-market discussion, next meeting Dec. 6, 6 to 7:30 p.m. potluck at Trinity Lutheran. J.C will facilitate.
- c. Market committee potluck at Judy and Jerry Kaplan's 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 18 in Greenbank.

9. Nominating Committee report by Michael and Andrea. They are in process. Next report on the 21^s, the next regular business meeting in December.
10. Land Stewardship report: Ida reported that we had a great work party with some 12 or 13 people involved in October 29. And 1,500 pounds of trash was hauled to the dump by Austen. She proposes waiting to sell Cedar Grove compost to community gardeners and later to others when the Tilth market opens again.
11. Pete gave an update on his and Mokihana's time on the land. He arranged for an electrical connection to be made into one of the bathrooms from the custodial room. He and Moki have been doing some facility maintenance and grounds keeping. He is monitoring the propane and electricity they are using, They provided a check for November to help cover utility costs.
12. Roadside maintenance of SR 525. We will continue to maintain the road right of way so that it won't get sprayed. We had some fine maintenance by JC, but he needs more help in future. Some alders have been marked with paint to come down.
13. Prescott presented a tentative Lesedi Farm lease proposal. It is not altogether clear, but it does give us some idea what Dorcas has in mind. She wishes to make it a year-to-year lease. She will use most of the hoop house but will plant out the uncovered area, help maintain it and offer the produce for sale at the market and farm stand. Half the sales go to Lesedi toward 2019 lease and half to Tilth
14. Education — Angie
Public film nights update – *Fed Up* is very powerful and Melissa is arranging to borrow it again, and Angie has ideas for library showings. So Melissa and Angie might arrange something around *Fed Up*.
15. Annual meeting date: Saturday January 27 at Trinity Lutheran Grigware Hall. We discussed speaker options such as a speaker on fermentation.
16. Adjourn— next meeting Thursday, December 21 SOLSTICE! 6:00 pm. potluck at Andréa's in Greenbank, Meeting adjourned about 8:10 p.m.

Notes by Michael Seraphinoff