

South Whidbey Tilth Business Meeting

Thursday, December 21 at 6 p.m.

Andréa Linton's home: 3733 Quail Walk Lane, Greenbank

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:26 p.m. by Prescott, president. Present are council members Andréa Linton, Ida Gianopoulos, Fred Rouge, Angie Hart and Judy Kaplan. Other members present are Michael Seraphinoff, Kirstin Clauson and J.C. May. Guest attending is Jack Pritcher.

Agenda additions — Fred asked to add a query about land to grow.

Call for minute taker — the meeting is recorded and converted to minutes by Prescott

Announcements:

1. Happy Solstice and welcome the return of the light
2. Holiday Party at MAHA Farm and Forest 3:30 p.m. Saturday, December 30. Potluck, white elephant white elephant gift exchange, games and conversation. If there is time Judy, Prescott and Ida have games to offer.

Approve minutes of November 16 meeting — Judy moved to accept the minutes as prepared. All agreed to approve.

1. Finance Report –

- a. Review of Finance reports — Edward the finance officer is out of town. Each received the Budget versus Actual through November 30 and the Balance sheet. Net loss is \$3,846 and after the land payment the net loss is \$8,796.
- b. Status of fundraising letter response \$1,035, plus a \$1,000 donation for the apprenticeship has been deposited to date, last year at this time \$1,240.

Kirstin arrived

- c. Motion to approve the 2018 budget — Anticipated income is \$12,750, but expenses are \$16,656, not counting the \$5,400 land payments. Andréa moved to approve the budget. The budget was approved as presented. The council will seek additional funds to balance the budget. See attached.

2. President's reports – Prescott

- a. Internship update— two candidates found other positions. Two have not responded to our request to be interviewed. All the job postings have been updated from “Deadline Dec. 15” to “Open until filled.” Ida, J.C. and Prescott are conducting the interviews.
- b. Committee work between council meetings will spread the load more broadly. Each committee head is encouraged to gather more participants. (Andréa and Angie have offered to review South Whidbey Garden Club grant application when Prescott drafts it. It is due January 6.)
- c. Invitation to participate in Seed Swap: Coupeville Library staff Kathryn O'Brien is planning a five week Northwest Gardening Series in partnership with the Master Gardeners at the Coupeville Library beginning February 13. There will be a class every Tuesday afternoon at 1 p.m. In addition Tilth has been invited to cosponsor the first Community Seed Swap on [**Correction:** Saturday, February 17 at 2 p.m.]. Deep Harvest Farm and Prairie Bottom Farm speak about the importance of local seed saving, open-pollinated varieties and a simple “how-to to save seed”. After discussion we agree to participate and invite Tilth members to contribute seed. Slow Food Whidbey Island is offering a film as well. Angie's committee will coordinate our role, meeting time to be determined after the holidays. We could prepare Tilth labeled seed packets to identify those from our membership.

3. Market –

- a. Future of the market notes distributed and call to plan a survey. Ida and Judy are willing to help with the survey. Perhaps Janet will work on it, Prescott said she would ask her.
- b. Proposed dates for 2018 Farmers' Market season: April 29 to October 7 = 24 weeks. All approved.
- c. Almanac advertising \$75 full color, same as last year. All agreed to keep it running again this year. It is in the budget. As an aside, Judy remembers a number of advertising offers were cut and she has a list of which ones.

4. **Nominating Committee report** – Michael or Andréa. Michael reported he and Andréa have been through the membership list and are concentration on building committee participation. Kirstin Clauson is willing to join the market committee. Andréa told of interviewing Lynae Slinden for a key office, but after reflection, Lynae said she has some medical issues to address but does plan to be more involved with Tilth activities this year. Council members will take turns next year facilitating meetings in order to become more familiar with the duties of President.

Prescott outlined the talents needed for 2018 are for a president, secretary, vice president, market committee land steward. Ida and Fred have agreed to continue and serve as land steward and vice president.

The nominating committee has asked Prescott to serve as secretary. Prescott will continue to mentor officers. Finding a candidate for president and market committee chair is still open.

5. **Land Stewardship** — Ida

- a. **Tool shed:** Ida announced that a donated tool shed will be broken down and brought to Tilth to be reassembled, probably next to the garden shed. Pete, Tom Grant and Randy Weisz will work on this. A thank-you card will be sent to the donor, John Hastings.
- b. **Lesedi lease proposal:** Dorcas's lease ended December 7 and she wants to renew lease as of May 2018 on a year-to-year basis at \$338/year. She propose to work with volunteers and interns to grow produce to be sold at the market in a designated booth labeled Tilth Grown produce. Also what is grown can be used in the kitchen. She proposes she wants help from Tilth volunteers, for this program will be particularly part of what Tilth's mission stands for. She will provide seeds and soil amendments, her time and caring for the growing, planting and growing, and assisting in harvesting for selling on Friday for Sunday market. The proceeds of all the sales will be 50 percent toward 2019 Lesedi farm lease and 40 percent paid to Tilth and 10 percent for the market sales commission. In May she will create a schedule to coordinate crop management, harvesting weeding and packaging and hopes to have the help of the market manager to do this. A spreadsheet will be created to record produce harvested and sold. And a record of what is left over and sold at the farm stand. The farm stand will be managed by the intern she hopes to have. The Tilth intern might also be incorporated.

Discussion followed as to how much she can manage since she'll also have a lease at the Greenbank Farm. Fred needs land to farm and was encouraged to propose to Dorcas that he take over the area outside the hoop house. Prescott asked to be involved in the proposal or clarification of the proposal. There is a concern that her request will tax our limited volunteer base. The original lease will be rewritten. Dorcas will be gone from the end of December to March. [Prescott broached the idea of Fred taking some of the land to Dorcas on December 23rd and she adamantly refused, saying she is not asking volunteers to do as much as we originally speculated. She feels she's put too much into establishing the soil and infrastructure to let go of her quarter acre this year.]

6. **Education** — Angie

- a. **Cultivating Success:** Prescott announced Goosefoot scholarships for three people per farm or organization to attend the WSU Cultivating Success, a class series to build entrepreneurial farm skills. The deadline is December 27.
- b. Angie reported collaborating with Melissa Young to show a film in a public venue.
- c. **Fruit production collaboration:** Janet Richards has joined the education committee and is working to collaborate Whidbey Island Nourishes (WIN), the Gleaning program and Tilth in some workshops to build orchard health for good fruit production.
- d. **Display at Sound Waters:** Saturday February 3 at South Whidbey High School, \$25 for nonprofits. Angie is willing to staff the booth and asked for help. People can still attend classes between staffing the display. It is at the South Whidbey High School.
- e. **Monthly Garden Guide discussion:** the group resumes in January to go over seed catalogs. Angie will reserve the Bayview School classroom and get at date for the newsletter.

7. **Annual meeting planning:** changed to Saturday, January 20 at Trinity Lutheran Grigware Hall, since others may be going to the Country Living Expo on the 27th. The speaker, raffle, potluck and meeting.

- a. Speaker Bri Ewing will talk about "the cider program and our research/education opportunities at the NWREC and at WSU as a whole. She teaches a few undergraduate courses and will describe what WSU has to offer as far as fermentation degree programs. The cider program is about a 35-minute presentation that covers the basics of what cider is and its current state in the marketplace. The Organic Ag discussion would take maybe 10 minutes with questions.
- b. If we gather at 3 p.m. to set up and people come at 3:30 to get refreshments, renew their membership and look over the raffle items and buy tickets. Ewing's talk can start at 4 p.m. followed by the business meeting, elections and committee reports about last year and plans for this year. The raffle drawing can happen during the potluck.
- c. Doug Hofius could be invited present something about his cider operation.
- d. The raffle will be fermentation themed. Volunteers are needed to contact Anthes Ferments, Glendale Shepherd [Prescott got a gift certificate from them], Britt's Pickles, the local beer and wine makers, etc. We'll communicate by email for planning.
- e. Committee reports should be short and express the highlights of the year and something brief about the coming year. A printed handout is ideal for those who want to read more. Angie suggested we display last summers fair poster.

11. **Market signage on the highway:** Judy would like to contact land owners near Tilth to ask if they would display a permanent sign; or if we could have the right to post a sign on their property announcing the Tilth market so travelers are alerted to the market before they get there. Angie remembered she and Prescott have a

mutual friend at the optical shop. Michael and Prescott will meet with Judy to work out logistics. A permanent metal sign on the highway, such as what Bayview has, costs \$500 initially, plus \$338 per year. The market committee should get information about how to fund this, perhaps with another Port of South Whidbey grant.

Adjourn— The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. for a Solstice party and fire. The next meeting is Thursday, January 18.
PROPOSAL: Could we set this meeting to begin at 6:45 p.m. so that those who wish to can see Mark and Melissa's film at the Nordic Hall at 5:30 p.m. Here are the details.

SAVE THE DATE: Premiere of Plane Truths

When: January 18th at 5:30 pm. Food available starting at 5:00 PM

Where: Nordic Hall

[63 Jacobs Road Coupeville](#)

Attend the premiere of *Plane Truths*, a 30-minute film created by Mark Dworkin and Melissa Young of Moving Images. *Plane Truths* takes a broad look at the region-wide impacts of the Navy E/A-18G Growler aircraft. A discussion will follow the film.

Sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Coast Alliance

The PNW Coast Alliance is a coalition of organizations that share the common goal of defending Puget Sound, Olympic Peninsula and the Olympic UNESCO World Heritage Site, the San Juan Islands and all of the Pacific Northwest Coast against increased military expansion, encroachment and harmful operations.

Minutes from the recording prepared by Prescott

South Whidbey Tilth 2018 Annual Budget

INCOME		EXPENSE	
FUND RAISING	6325		900
General Donations /Annual Letter	5000	printing,postage,etc	400
Grants/Dedicated Funds	?		
Events (annual mtg,banquet,etc)	800	events	500
Laughing Cat (net)	250		
Special Order Coffee (net)	250		
Other (Garden Guides,etc) (net)	25		
 MEMBERSHIP	 1900		 400
Newsletter advertising	?	editor	000
		postage	400
 EDUCATION	 400		
Classes	400	classes	400
 MARKET	 3125		 9560
commissions	2750	permits ,fees	310
booths	375	promotion	750
		musicians/ent	700
		manager/intern	7,500
		membership	300
 LAND	 1000		 800
Community Garden	500	maintenance	800
Lesedi /Calyx,Prisbrey,etc	500	improvements	
 INTEREST			
Total Income	12750		
ADMINISTRATION		Fixed	3305
		accounting	1200
		insurance	900
		property tax	1200
		Variable	1140
	(printing,postage)	office supplies,	200
	(web page,wi-fi-tele)	services	400
	(electric,propane)	utilities	540
		Payroll/	?
 Total Expenses			 16,116
Profit	3756		
Land Payments	5400		
	Deficit		5611