

## South Whidbey Tilth Business Meeting

Thursday, March 15, 2018, 6 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Annex, Nursery, Freeland

### Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by volunteer facilitator and Market Committee Chair Kirstin Clauson. Other council members present were President Prescott, Edward Hueneke, Ida Gianopoulos, FRed Rouge, Angie Hart and Andréa Linton. Other members present were Pete Little and J.C. May. Prescott agreed to record the minutes.

**Approve minutes:** The minutes of the February 15 meeting were approved with the correction that J.C. May had been in attendance.

#### Announcements

1. Wendy Ferrier died March 13 after suffering a fall that chipped her sacrum. The family will plan a service later.
2. Tilth Film Night: *The True Cost*, Sunday, March 18 at Mark Dworkin and Melissa Young's starting with a potluck at 6 p.m. followed by the film. An announcement will go out by email.
3. Prescott will be out of town but in email and phone contact.
4. FRed Rouge has left a blue pickup truck at Tilth. His request to leave it there for an undetermined temporary time was approved.

#### Finance Report — Edward

Reported he will be paying for the annual business and nursery licenses as well as our property tax exemption this month. The financial report for the end of February indicates a seriously low balance.

Receipts will for travel to the WSFMA Farmers' Market Conference March 10 will be submitted for reimbursement.

Edward suggested more bills be paid on line. Direct deposit has been set up for the bimonthly apprenticeship stipend for the School Farms intern. The bank charge is \$1.90 each time and may be worth the time and mailing expense saved. Motion by Andréa to present at the next meeting a list of bills to be paid directly through the bank. Motion not seconded, but Ed will prepare the list. Prescott noted Angie has raised much of the budgeted income for education this year.

**Internship Status** — Prescott reported four out of six council members responded to the email vote March 12 and 13 to participate in the Good Cheer initiated fundraiser, *Mindful Magic*, to raise funds for the five apprentices. No one objected. The event is Sunday, April 1 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Bayview Hall. We also agreed to sell tickets to this event. Edward and Kirstin offered to be the point person, Prescott provided Ed's contact information as the Tilth representative for ticket sales.

She distributed 34 tickets to those present to sell at \$10 each. Promotional fliers by Good Cheer's Shawn Nowlin were distributed. More fliers and 16 more tickets (50 total) will be provided to Edward before she goes out of town. Angie has set up the Tilth Facebook page as a cohost to this event. It will also be posted on Tilth's website.

Tickets may also be purchased and donated back for a needy family. Write on the back of the ticket and take to Good Cheer.

Kirstin asked about the Farmers' Market instagram account which needs editing. Prescott will work on it.

Prescott posted job on Tufts ComFood.Jobs and one response. The interview committee did not find that person's qualifications adequate. Andréa suggests that at some point soon we stop and prepare to get by without an intern this year.

It was recommended that Prescott reach out to students seeking apprenticeship experiences through college and university human services departments. The apprentice wouldn't start until June after school.

Edward reminded us the mission of our apprenticeship is to give young people a learning experience. We should keep Andréa's point in mind as our modest funds are not able to cultivate and keep an apprentice with the long term intention to hire that person as staff. Others question the need for an apprenticeship program when we don't have the staff and resources to support the program. The State Farm Intern Project allows farmers to pay their interns/apprentices less than standard wage and still offer Labor and Industry protection.

Pete introduced an idea inspired by the book, *Kids These Days*, and inspired by the chapter on apprentices. He proposes to invite older members and friends in the community to contribute \$100 to engage an apprentice or other young person to teach them a skill to receive a skill, such as how to Skype, garden, to do Facebook, safety on a construction job, etc. The teacher would earn \$100 provided by the elder.

Ida would like to offer higher wage for higher quality applicants. Prescott intends to explore some federal grants that could boost our program and provide staff. Deadlines are usually in December.

**Posting minutes on the website** — Ida raised the issue of how vulnerable our organization is to liability when the contents of the business meeting minutes are posted on our website. The original bylaws required the minutes be in the newsletter. After the bylaws were revised, the minutes were posted on the website. Andréa will review the bylaws in order to have a more informed discussion at the next meeting. All agreed that no names should be in the minutes unless that person took specific responsibility for an action.

**Membership, Community Relations & Development Committee** — Andréa proposed a transition plan for membership renewals be a once-a-year event, starting with a membership drive in June 2018 in conjunction with the Summer Solstice and Tilth's annual anniversary. Starting in early March a table is created to calculate each member's renewal date factored against what is owed as of June to June at \$2 per month before and after June. She distributed a sample table rates for a single membership as well as for additional household members. For example, a member who joined in February (four months before June) would be invited to renew their membership in June 2018 for  $\$8 + \$25 = \$33$  to be a member in good standing to June 2019.

Her proposal also included a draft member letter describing the transition and specifying the amount a particular member would pay this year. This being the first year of the transition, she suggests a work party in early to mid May to prepare the letters to all the long term members. The goal being to get all letters out by the end of May.

By the second week in July, assess the renewals and prepare reminder forms. Also use the Sustainability Potluck in August as another opportunity to solicit renewals.

A new member may join at anytime of the year. But each year recent new members will receive a form with their renewal amount as of that June. After 2018, the job of prorating membership renewals should become less work.

It was suggested the work party be a weekday evening sometime during the first two weeks of May.

The membership rate was discussed. Perhaps the fee should be the same for all members include two or three in a household. That way a member would receive an individual email. It was suggested the rate might be increased and perhaps a work-trade setup for those who find the fee too steep. All agreed to not raise the membership dues this year, but consider a change next year.

It was agreed to continue discussion of the plan by email and bring the final proposal to the next business meeting.

**Land Stewardship Committee** — Ida presented a recap of Land Stewardship meeting of March 6 including the completion of the new tool shed, new driveway circle landscaping, discussed a variety of projects, the entrance design and the farm stand, etc. A member is working on getting the riding mower working again. Ida intends to submit a grant proposal to the Whidbey Island Garden Tour for new plants, paint, etc. to improve the appearance of the Tilth campus. A work party among community gardeners is this Saturday to clear out the garden shed and move the tools to the new one. Machinery will be housed in the old shed. Pete says there needs to be some shelves and trim installed in the new shed. The new addition to the chicken house has been delivered but not set up yet.

Prescott moved that Ida pursue a Whidbey Island Garden Tour grant application. All approved. The application will be shared with the council.

In February Pete requested approval to bury a 150-foot electrical line/ 30 amp RV pedestal receptacle from The Laughing Cat Café to the Vardo. Electrician quoted \$1,000 which includes the permit. He suggested we reflect on it and vote to approve at this meeting. Discussion continued as to how to use the installation for future caretakers and as a placeholder for facility expansion. Power to the Native Plant area would be most efficient coming directly from the highway. Pete was asked to find out from the electrician an estimate for 100-amp service.

Motion to approve the installation of the line and receptacle, splitting the cost with Pete and Mokihana and using the \$150 dedicated fund from the 2017 South Whidbey Garden Club for this purpose.

Pete would like to convert the market booth next to the classroom for Pete and Moki and Tilth's storage purposes for items requiring dry/secure place. Using the frames of the building, Pete thinks it would be about \$400 for T111 plywood for walls, floor and roof. It was agreed to put that project on hold for lack of funds. We'll consider a future donation request or fundraiser for this project. Pete will put together a cost list.

**Education** — Angie says she's not heard back from BugaBay about a vermiculture class for compost month in June, she'll call. Tom Vincent also wants to teach another biochar class on his farm in April or May. The Garden Discussion group dates are March 27, April 24 and May 22 at the Old Bayview School classroom. The April and May sessions start at 6 p.m.

Angie asked about a policy to share useful information from participants. There is no formal policy, but it is common practice to share on Facebook. [The contributor could be asked for permission to share first.]

Anza's seed sowing class generated a lot of participants, even though preregistration was not strong. \$207 collected, including a membership and a Garden Guide sale. Anza donated her time.

Prescott distributed flier for Earth and Ocean Month in April, themed "Get Outside and Take Action". An Earth Day celebration is to be at Bayview Corner on Saturday, April 21 from noon to 4 p.m. Angie and Andréa agreed to staff the Tilth booth with the Guess-the-Seedling drawing and potential work party sign up sheets.

**Market Committee** — Kirstin presented the newest edits to the market policy. She proposes we change the requirement to be a Tilth member on the agreement to simply encourage vendors to become members. At the Washington State Farmers' Market conference, more specific language for anchoring canopies and umbrellas was learned and included in our policy. Prescott rewrote the Community Produce and Crafts booth policy and rewrote the SNAP, Credit Cards and Farmers'

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Market Nutrition Program. FRed noted there is no safe guard against a SNAP customer just walking away with produce. He recommended customers leave their SNAP card with the manager or Laughing Cat where they will be given a list to note their purchases and from whom. The card can be run in advance to determine customers' balance. Some markets use tokens purchased in advance. More people need to be trained in the use of the SNAP EBT machine.

Edward asked Prescott to email him the latest communication from the SNAP program.

Kirstin displayed the new design for roadside signs in coroplast to be posted at the Vision Clinic and the neighbor's land. Permission has been granted for the neighbors, but needs to be firmed up with the clinic. FRed noted that red on yellow is the most flashy. Currently the signs are white letters on barn red. Thompson Road was pushed over and the riders made with yellow and red. Riders are smaller pieces that may have flexible arrows. J.C. noted there is a new state highway sign inspector. It needs to be 30 feet off the highway or it could be confiscated. Keep the TODAY so a Wednesday market could be considered.

The 2018 market flier was considered but observed the orange, outlined in yellow, is hard on the eyes. Other options will be explored by Prescott

The vendor orientation is Saturday, March 31 at 4 p.m. in Grigware Hall.

Joanne Martinis agreed to staff our display at the annual Island County Employee Food Fair on April 12. Prescott will reply to the invitation and assemble promotion material with Kirstin's help.

**Dissolution of Washington Tilth** — Prescott reported that technically we are a chapter of Washington Tilth even though five years have passed since the Washington Tilth board agreed to dissolve the organization.

**Motion:** South Whidbey Tilth, having received its own 501(c)3 federal tax exemption, adopts the March 6, 2018 Resolution to dissolve Washington Tilth Association. It approves Susan Prescott as the signer of the attached form.

All approved

**Whidbey Island Grown** member reception is Sunday, March 25 from 3 to 5 p.m. Kirstin and Edward agreed to represent Tilth. Market fliers will be taken. Anza may go either as Maha or Tilth.

**Facilitator for next meetings** — Ida will handle April 19 and Andréa will handle May 17 business meetings.

**Call for Adjournment** — "Let's sell some Magic Show tickets!" says Angie. The procedure for the collecting money and distributing tickets goes through Edward, who will get represent us to Good Cheer. Prescott will provide him with more fliers and 16 more tickets (50 total). Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.