

# South Whidbey Tilt Business Meeting

Thursday, April 19 at 6 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Annex, Freeland

## Minutes

The meeting was called to order by volunteer facilitator Land Stewardship Chair Ida Gianopulos at about 6 p.m. Present were council members Prescott, Andréa Linton, Edward Hueneke, Angie Hart, FRed Rouge and Kirstin Clauson. Other members present were Pete Little, J.C. May and Michael Seraphinoff.

**March 15 minutes** — were approved with one correction under Land Stewardship, the reference should have been to the Whidbey Island Garden Tour grant application.

**Announcements** — Ida reported the trash run she made is a donation to Tilt.

**Finance Report** — Edward

Several people suggested it would be helpful to have a meeting to go through how to read the finance report. Perhaps at a time the agenda wasn't as full. Edward suggested our bookkeeper might be invited to attend.

**Internship status update** — Prescott reported the latest candidate does not appear to be interested in pursuing the apprenticeship. His reason was partly economic. Prescott will look into the human resources departments at the Community colleges, especially those with strong agriculture programs. Ida offered to help. FRed will get in touch with the Willing Workers On Organic Farms (WOOF).

Tilt brought in \$370 in Magic Show fundraiser tickets. Total earning reported by Good Cheer's Carol Squire was \$1,849. Edward and Prescott will push for a meeting to learn how resources might be distributed.

Prescott reported the \$10,000 Tulalip grant request the three Grow Whidbey organizations applied for was awarded only \$3,000.

As to the cost per month of an apprentice, \$670/month is currently being paid for the apprentice who works at the South Whidbey Schools for whom we are fiscally responsible. Those funds come from the greater pot.

**Market Committee** — Kirstin

Michael proposed we invite Kirstin to be market manager. Kirstin was asked to leave the room during discussion. The proposal would be a contract for May and be paid \$150. A conflict of interest agreement will be signed. The funds will come from the market income and not the apprenticeship fund. All agreed. Kirstin was invited back into the room and accepted the contract.

Prescott noted that Good Cheer has a \$1,000 labor and industry policy to cover volunteers and volunteers.

Market preparation day is set for Sunday, April 22 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Kirstin has a list she sent by email. Pete also has a suggested list of tasks to be completed prior to market opening. He'll get Lo-VOC paint for building trim. Painting is most effective when the temperature is right. Pete is going to set up the stage on sawhorses by the pump house so they can be painted. The heavy rain in April has made it difficult to work without rutting the ground. He has been laying down chips on the serviceberry tree boulevard. Tom Vincent will mow Sunday with big mower attachment. FRed and Edward will do the interior of the market. Pete asked that the vinyl table clothes be rolled up after use, folding them weakens the coating. He soaked them in vinegar to clean them.

Kirstin passed around flier for the Nettle Festival April 29. Prescott and Kirstin presented the new roadside sign designs. Permission to post them has been secured from landowners.

The layout for the market activities such as the nettle festival was discussed. There will need some special accommodations for a new vendor offering espresso and who needs electricity.

Angie asked if the request for volunteers to teach classes was circulated. Generally all were feeling overwhelmed by email and didn't see it. It has been posted on Facebook. It will be sent out again.

An evangelical member of the United Methodist Church had asked to have a presence at the market. He was sent the solicitation policy included in the vendor policy so he knows he must stay in the “free speech” area and not be loud or obnoxious. He plans to come in June.

The question was raised about the supplies needed for the Taste of the Week events and for the Nettle Festival. Ida suggested the nitty gritty of the market opening could be discussed outside council meeting time. All agreed.

**Education Committee — Angie**

Next gardening discussion group is Tuesday, April 24, at a new time of 6 p.m. at the Old Bayview School. Starting in June the group will meet outdoors.

**Membership, Community Relations and Development Committee — Andrea**

The work party will be Thursday, May 10 at 5 p.m. and tentatively at the Freeland Library. Andréa and Prescott will get the envelopes and letter ready.

**Land Stewardship — Ida**

Approve Tilth’s sharing of the cost for running electricity to the caretaker site. The electrician’s estimate was \$1,000, but the total bill is \$555.34. Pete also rented a trencher at \$195.12 so the total outlay is \$750.46. If split between Tilth and Pete, each share is \$375.23. Pete did most of the labor of 30 to 40 hours.

MOTION: Andréa moved that Tilth pay its half of the expense for installing a 30-amp hookup with the \$150 grant from the South Whidbey Garden Club (2017) and the balance will come from the general fund under land expense. The majority approved it.

Another Community Garden work party was April 14 and there was a good turn out. There is one new gardener and another family is interested. Most people paid on time because she “hounded them and a few have not paid yet.

Prescott announced a box of organic red potatoes has been donated to Tilth and placed in the new tool shed. Perhaps an email to community gardeners could be sent around.

The Whidbey Island Garden Tour grant applications are due April 30. Ida plans to develop a proposal to focus on the entrance to make it look really nice and accommodate a farm stand. Pete has reconfigured the fencing, moved the existing sign so it doesn’t block traffic visibility. The grant will cover new plants and a new sign. Pete says he’d like to clean up the clutter that has accumulated by the sheds in the front.

**Earth and Ocean Month Event at Bayview, April 21** — Prescott distributed the brochure about the activities going on at Bayview Corner. She explained how our Guess the Seedling Game works. Angie and Andréa have volunteered to staff our table. A sign up sheet will be made for work party opportunities. The education solicitation will be on a clipboard too.

**Limited camping at Tilth** — Michael called for a discussion of his proposal for limited camping for bicyclists passing through the Island. Pete and Mokihana will need a formal to identify overnight visitors and identify a specific area. The liability issue will need to be addressed, perhaps becoming a site through Hip Camp. Pete cautioned that the highway noise has increased overtime making the site unattractive to campers. A suggested \$25 for the first night followed by \$10 each additional night. The area behind the farmers’ market area and the woods on the south side is a potential area. Prescott proposed that those with an enthusiasm for this topic do the research and draw up a proposal and present it to the next meeting. Michael agreed to follow through.

Pete suggested we lobby for a speed limit near the left-turn lane to help lower the highway noise.

Andréa will chair the next meeting, May 17 at 6 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.