Acting chair Andréa Linton called the meeting to order at the South Whidbey Tilth Sustainability Campus. Present were trustees Angie Hart, Kirstin Clauson, Edward Hueneke, Ida Gianopulos, FRed Rouge and Prescott. Members attending were Pete Little and JC May.

**Approve minutes** — the minutes of the April 17 were approved with the typographical error correction under Land Stewardship report of “The electrician’s estimate was $1,00,...” to $1,000. Also JC. noted a mistake regarding the Magic Show accounting.

**Announcements** — FRed announced the payment of $160 from MAHA Farm for Cedar Grove Compost purchased. Prescott announced the details for the Swarm Against Monsanto on Saturday.

**Finance Report** — Edward reviewed the budget and actual comparison as of April 30 as well as the balance sheet comparison to 2017. He explained how dedicated and grant funds are recorded as “unearned income.” Given there had been several markets since April 30 the accounts are not current. Deposits for the annual fundraising letter are recorded on a spreadsheet on Dropbox and provided to the finance team of Jeanne and Edward. A question was asked as to how we keep track of various pieces of money. Edward says it is reflected in the minutes based on various committee reports by the chairs who oversee those projects.

The dedicated account for the apprenticeship/internship is not reflected in this finance report and Prescott will work with the bookkeeper to show it. Prescott and Edward plan to meet with the Grow Whidbey partners, School Farms and Good Cheer to learn how the total funds are accounted for. Evidently we all benefit by matching funds.

Cash on hand is $5,513 as of May 17.

**Overview of activities for the year for strategic planning** — Prescott presented a calendar for the year of organizational activities that can be updated each month and by which we can do long range planning. The immediate past month, present month and next two months were reviewed. Ida recommended we reduced outside involvement this year for the Sustainability Potluck and focus on our own members. **It was agreed to review the calendar at least two months out at each business meeting.** Planning for the Fair is the most immediate topic and falls under education. The Sustainability potluck is the next big project and falls under membership.

**Education** — Angie explained our educational display for this year’s fair is about soil as a carbon sink and how individuals can manage their land for that purpose. Must be registered on July 15. [More from Angie later.]

**Apprenticeship update** — Prescott reported that no appropriate apprentices have applied. She has contacted the community colleges and several other institutions as well as the Free Range News and on Drewslist. We have been soliciting for the position since last October and interviewing since December. The most urgent need is for a Market Manager. Kirstin is already serving as market manager in May at $150. **Prescott proposed Tilth to end the search by June 1. If no apprentice, the money raised will be held for the next year. Andréa called for a vote and all approved.**

**Market Committee** — Kirstin has drafted a letter to produce vendors to vend at Tilth.

Ida recommended promoting the need for volunteers on Drewslist, Facebook, etc. “It needs to sound like a fun thing to do, “ she said.

Edward proposed we hire Kirstin as Market Manager at $50/week for the season as of June 1. Kirstin will provide leadership with strong volunteer assistance. Kirstin agreed. Prescott has drafted a market manager agreement for Kirstin to review, provide amendments and sign it; she will fill out a W9 form. Market income will be used to pay a market manager.

Kirstin asked for clarification on market mowing schedule. Marc Wilson has agreed to do it inner market each week until mid June. The parking area needs volunteer mowers. Hopefully the riding mower will be repaired.
Mowing schedule — Prescott explained the impact of machinery and cut grass on our Multiple Chemical Sensitivity caretaker, Mokihana. A recent idea is to engage animals to graze grass and eat thistles and blackberries. She will consult with sheep farmer Susan Crocker. FRed has a contact with both sheep and a fence.

Mowing has been scheduled for Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 to 1 to allow Moki to leave for the day. That morning a volunteer had shown up at 9:30 and began mowing, causing Mokihana great distress.

Moki is asking why we need to do such extensive mowing. Prescott asked for reasons in order to affirm our annual practice of doing the larger field, as shown here:

- Keep invasive weeds under control
- Prevent fire hazard
- Vendor and customer ease of parking
- An aesthetic

Pete noted the tractor used today is not in good shape for cutting, making it difficult to rake. Raking is needed to reduce the impact on those with chemical sensitivities. Coordinating volunteers has been done by Michael and Prescott. Prescott will follow up on contacting someone to service the tractor. Ida offered to help. Tom Vincent has provided a list of concerns: “what the tractor needs is routine maintenance: belts, hoses, filters, hydraulics etc. to make sure it is in good working order. And an overall inspection: In particular I would like to see someone inspect a. the ignition system (it failed to start a couple of times for me during the work party and I am not sure why,) b. the accelerator (I’m not sure the pedal is operating the way it should) and c. the mower shaft (it has a cracked rear connector.)

I would also love to get verification to find out if the tractor is truly underpowered for the mower or if there is some other problem — accelerator pedal, or mower shaft.”

Much of the field mowing has been reduced because of David and FRed’s gardens.

Ida and Prescott will prepare a map of mowing plan. Pete expressed gratitude that everyone is working toward mutually agreeable mowing schedule and plan.

Membership, Community Relations and Development Committee — Andrée noted the revised membership renewal notices has gone out as of May 10. Her committee will meet to review the renewal rate. She noted that of the 166 members, 109 members had not renewed. Prescott noted that until this year we have included membership renewal information in the annual fundraising letter. Fourteen percent are complimentary which is a lot.

Land Stewardship — Ida announced an informal work party this Saturday, from 9 to 1, to cleanup an unassigned plot that is developing weeds going to seed. Once it is cleaned she can promote its availability.

Ida noted the Albert Foster funds still have an available balance of over $4,000. She would like to use it to run bunny prevention fencing. Angie would like a gate near her plot. Several other items including a weed whacker to do finer trimming. She will develop a price list for needed materials in consultation with her committee. Edward recommends getting a big powerful weed whacker. It was agreed no vote to purchase these materials was necessary as they have been discussed and approved earlier.

Prescott reported that all the bees in the orchard hives had died in March. Recently two hives have been reoccupied by swarms.

Solicitation at the Farmers’ Market — The following policy adopted in 2001 was reviewed and discussed on email prior to the meeting:

South Whidbey Tilth is an educational organization and wishes to promote community involvement in a variety of issues. The South Whidbey Tilth Farmers’ Market provides a community gathering place and is an appropriate venue for those who hope to educate the public about their causes.

Those who wish to circulate petitions or distribute information at the South Whidbey Farmers’ Market must contact the manager one week prior to appearing at the market and must conduct these activities in the Free Speech Area designated by the Market Manager. Those taking advantage of the Free Speech Area
must obey all directives of the Market Manager and not use intrusive attention getting methods such as yelling or amplified sound. Hate messages may not be displayed or distributed.

**The market manager has the support of the council to enforce it.** A petitioner has been interrupting customers and drawing complaints.

The dog policy at the market also needs some enforcement. Ida pointed out that the market manager should be designated to speak to the offender. Any of us can bring an offence to the market manager who can choose to delegate one of us to speak on her behalf or she will handle it.

**Education** — Angie also noted the monthly Garden Guide Discussion Group will be meeting on the last Tuesday of the month. In June and July it will meet outside, the place to be announced at 6 p.m.

The hot composting class is Sunday, June 3 by Tom Vincent, but Angie wondered if the market hours were to be extended. Kirstin will revisit it with the vendors, but hours won’t be extended until July and August in any case.

**Invasive weeds** — Ida plans to hold a work party in June and advertise it on Drewslist.

**Newsletter status** — Prescott reported the newsletter will be coming out by June. She is open to finding another editor. It should be published every other month. This issue should have come out in February. Next issue article need to be ready by mid July to editor.

**South Whidbey Acoustic Music Festival** — Prescott reported that Lynae plans to write grants to support it and Russell Clepper is in charge, but is having trouble filling the schedule. It will be Sunday, June 24.

**Next meeting** — Edward agreed to chair the next meeting. The regular schedule would put the meeting on Thursday, June 21. It was decided to change the meeting to Tuesday, June 19 at 6 p.m. to celebrate the anniversary of our chapter’s founding at Tilth.

**Sustainability Potluck** — Several dates were suggested, perhaps August 9 or 16, but a decision will be made at the June meeting. It’s been suggested we focus on our members this year instead of collaborating with Slow Food Whidbey Island. A discussion followed on the pros and cons of that idea. We will explain to Slow Food that this is a transition year as we change our membership renewal policy to an annual renewal in the month of June instead of on the anniversary of when a member originally joined. The event this year will focus on membership benefits. The event would highlight intentions, where good food and community come together and the value of the Tilth campus, the land, as a resource itself. Part of the overall plan this year would have table hosts who engage table mates to express ideas that would be followed up on after the event to develop ideas and inspire the people with the idea to follow through.

It was suggested we collaborate with Slow Food for a separate event. Perhaps an event involving tastes to be raffled off.

**Call to Adjourn** — approved about 8:05 p.m.

*Minutes written from a recording by Prescott.*