

# South Whidbey Tilth Business Meeting Minutes

## Thursday, September 20, 2018

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Acting chair Andréa Linton called the meeting to order at the Trinity Lutheran Church's Annex a little after 6 p.m. Present were trustees Kirstin Clauson, Edward Hueneke, Ida Gianopulos and Prescott. Members attending were Pete Little, Michael Seraphinoff and J.C. May. Trustee Angie Hart was unable to attend.

**Approve minutes** — the minutes of the July 19 meeting were postponed as they are not ready. The minutes of tonight's meeting shall reflect the following items, which were approved earlier by email:

1. Approval of request by neighbors for overflow parking at Tilth for neighbors on Thompson Road for Saturday, October 6. Pete Little will be available as a contact and set up a canopy in case of bad weather. Prescott will provide contact information.
2. August 9, 2018, all approved the adoption of the name Mary Alice Kois Permaculture Food Forest for the replanted children's garden.
3. Whidbey Telecom granted Tilth another year of free WiFi and voicemail from September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019 valued at \$635.40. This is the third year. It was recommended a Whidbey Telecom sign about their services be secured from them.

**Finance Report** — Edward reported the membership dues were up a thousand dollars, the market is "above water," education is too. The Tilth Alliance fund should be zero. Prescott will correct with bookkeeper. The internship fund needs to be added to from Good Cheer for the School Farm apprentice Tilth is fiscally sponsoring. Prescott will communicate with the appropriate parties.

Prescott with Ida's help submitted two grants over the summer \$14,620 to Goosefoot for the farm stand and a \$4,800 grant to the Whidbey Island Community Foundation for the next intern/apprentice stipend. Notification for both will come in November.

Schedule the annual internal audit of the finances is due by the end of the calendar year. Edward will ask a member if he would do it. Prescott has some better guidance for the process from the Board Development workshop she attended September 11.

Edward reported Tilth has \$14,607.82 is Sustainability Funds set aside. In the past it's been in CDs and is currently in Savings. Interest rates are increasing. Edward will explore options to earn a better rate of return. All approved and expect a report at the next meeting.

**The direction of South Whidbey Tilth discussion** — Michael Seraphinoff wrote an editorial about the state of Tilth for the August newsletter, which was not published. The editorial policy for such submissions is in need of review. Michael had decided the matter should be reviewed by the council first, but asked that it be taken up after the market season is over. Andréa suggested it should be taken up in a special meeting. By email, copies of the editorial will be distributed and a meeting scheduled with a facilitator.

**Caretakers Agreement update** — Prescott distributed copies of the first draft, accompanied with a document describing Pete and Mokihana's contributions and problems in shaping our understanding of what a caretaker's role might be, as well as members' issues with the experience to date. The agreement itself is to be written for present and future caretakers and based on what Tilth needs and informed by this first year's experience. The document is broken into two parts, Tilth responsibilities and caretakers' responsibilities. A special meeting to examine the draft is scheduled for Tuesday, September 25 at 6:30 p.m. at a location to be determined by Prescott or Andréa. **[Sears House basement on Meinhold and Bayview Roads, across from Bayview Hall.]**

**Market items** — Prescott reported events for Whidbey Island Grown Week at Tilth include Customer Appreciation at the last Farmers' Market of the season. Vendors may offer specials. Entertainment includes the Whidbey Island Cloggers and, from 12:30 to 1:15, a Unicorn Magic Show by Hahna Luna. On the half hour, Netsah Zylinsky is leading three tours of the Mary Alice Kois Permaculture Food Forest. Also a fall plant sale. We'll be asking members to bring plants for sale and a need for someone to cashier and manage it. Kirstin will contact the Conservation District for plant donations. All plant sale proceeds go to Tilth.

Kirstin and Prescott requested an additional \$25 for Hahna Luna's performance. She plans to base her show around the Whidbey Island Grown theme and incorporate her farming and food content in the show; the magic of farming; how food influences our planet's health and balance. Motion made add \$25 to the entertainment budget for Hahna Luna's performance. All approved.

Netsah has asked that the flowering currant be transplanted elsewhere so the permaculture garden can establish a food-producing currant. Ida will think about where it might be best relocated.

Post-market cleanup day: Kirstin will confer with other vendors to determine a good day to clean up the market.

Kirstin reported the Harvest Festival this Sunday, September 23 has at least five pie makers. Michael reported the cider press has been set up and some delicious cider was made today from Tilth apples. The event has been

promoted by email to members, posters, it should be in the *Record* on Saturday and it is on Drewslist. More volunteers are needed.

Volunteers are also being requested at the September 29 to 30 Cider Festival at Pacific Rim by Whidbey Island Grown. Contact Prescott for more information about helping.

**Land Stewardship Role** — Ida stated she understood she could choose the aspect of land stewardship she was most interested in, which is the community garden. She's concerned that many people contact her about other matters on the land. She's happy to volunteer for other projects when she has time, but doesn't want to coordinate other activities that fall under land stewardship. Perhaps there needs to be defined subcommittees with specific volunteers as contacts for those subcommittees. Prescott suggested each chairperson bring a job description to the next meeting to help clarify the job, especially for recruiting new council members. Edward noted Tilth has extensive job descriptions. The archives will be searched for descriptions that can be reviewed.

**Appoint nominating committee** — Prescott learned some new ideas about seeking board members at the Boards in Gear workshop held September 11, [www.washingtonnonprofits.org](http://www.washingtonnonprofits.org) and [www.wanonprofitinstitute.org](http://www.wanonprofitinstitute.org). Defining what a board is looking for and developing a job description is useful to incorporate with a "board application form." She noted on the Tilth calendar, this is the month to appoint a nominating committee to seek out potential candidates and announce by December or at least by the annual membership meeting in January. 2019 is an odd-number year, so Andréa (position 5, Angie (pos. 7) and Edward (pos. 3) will have completed their two-year terms by the annual meeting in January. Positions 2 and 8 are also vacant.

Think about what gaps need to be filled if these outgoing trustees don't continue. Recruiting can be an inspirational exercise to attract interest in fundraising, finance, educational programs and membership development. Tilth currently is without a vice president and secretary. Kirstin and Edward are considering joining the nominating committee. Discussion suggested seeking younger people. Prescott will coordinate a meeting, but as president, cannot be on the nominating committee.

**Tree of Life Mural Project** — Cherri Ann Forrest has requested funding for six or seven "backerboard" (smooth plywood) 4-foot by 8-foot sheets @ \$24 = \$168 + tax. No financial sponsors have committed to the project yet. Prescott will ask Cherri if she has received any commitments yet. She'll be asked for an items list to inspire donations. Several members stated they want to encourage her work. Prescott moved that Tilth contribute funds for two boards. Edward moved we support Cherri's work and purchase at least two maybe all of the boards. Approved by six members, two abstained. Considering the unanswered questions, Kirstin moved to rescinded the vote, all approved. Pete and Prescott will try to learn more of what she plans to do and where she'll be working. Prescott's motion was reintroduced: to contribute two boards and approved by five; three abstained. Cherri will be advised that Tilth does not expect to fund the entire project, but we are the fiscal sponsor for donations raised. She has already repainted the pump house with a Harvest Moon, as a start.

**Clarification about prisoner's letter to Tilth.** Ida has interpreted the letter as a simple inquiry about how to be involved and how to join. Others agreed. Prescott will send a membership brochure and newsletter as a welcome.

**Education committee** — Prescott reported there is no Tilth Film night scheduled in October. Melissa Young has proposed we convene Sunday, November 4 at her and Mark Dworkin's home to see *Look and See, a portrait of Wendell Berry*, [82 minutes]. The potluck is at 6, followed by the film and discussion.

**Newsletter article deadline:** Saturday, September 22, email to Prescott ideas, intentions and articles with pictures.

**Next Meeting** — Thursday, October 18 at 6 p.m. in the Nursery of Trinity Lutheran Church's annex, Ida Gianopulos agreed to chair the meeting.

**Adjournment:** Call to adjourn about 7:52 p.m.

*Minutes were transcribed from a recording by Prescott*