

# South Whidbey Tilth Business Meeting

Thursday, October 18 at 6:00 PM  
The Nursery, Trinity Lutheran, Freeland

## Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. by President Prescott. Attending were council members Edward Hueneke, Andréa Linton, Angie Hart and Kirstin Clauson. Ida Gianopulos was unable to attend. Members attending were Pete Little, FRed Rouge, Anza Muenchow and J.C. May.

### Announcements

Angie announced she and Ben are moving to out of state to the Raleigh, North Carolina area and she has already given notice at work. She will be attending the November 15 business meeting and we'll plan a farewell party.

**Tilth Film Night** Sunday, November 4 at 6 p.m. at Mark Dworkin and Melissa Young's, 3821 Beaver Creek Lane, Clinton; potluck followed by documentary about Wendell Berry, *Look and See*.

November 8, Whidbey Community Foundation about Fundraising. Andréa and Pete are registered to attend, 1 to 4 p.m. at Whidbey Island Nordic Lodge Hall, Coupeville

November 12, Monday at Whidbey Growers Association potluck at the Whidbey Island Nordic Lodge Hall ([63 Jacobs Rd., Coupeville](#)) starting at **5:30 p.m.** Please bring a potluck dish to share. The topic is "*From Value-Added to Experience*" with a three-part presentation on how to expand and enhance your rural farm or business with value-added products and carefully crafted customer experiences. Presenters are Whidbey's very own Sarah Richards of Lavender Wind Farm, Bev Heising of Whidbey Island Distillery and Marian Myszkowski of Goosefoot.

**Approval of minutes** — The minutes of the July 19, 2018 business-meeting minutes were approved as written. The minutes of the September 20, 2018 minutes were approved with a correction to the sentence in the announcements about signage from Whidbey Telecom. The minutes are available on the website on the "about" page.

**Finance Report** — Edward reported he has been researching appropriate financial institutions with a good certificate of deposit to transfer the sustainability money to and will report next month.

The bookkeeper noted a deficit in the general fund, but Edward explained it is the apprenticeship money we have been reassured will come in. Kirstin noted she has not yet deposited some funds from the Farmers' Market, but will do so the next day.

Internal Audit: Gary Ingram agreed to do the 2018 internal audit. Reports of past audits will be sent to him as a guideline.

Prescott had reported by email that the Whidbey Community Foundation grant for an apprentice stipend was not funded

**"Whither Tilth," by Michael Seraphinoff discussion** — Prescott included a copy of the draft editorial, *Whither Tilth*, and reported that Carol Squire is willing to lead us in a *gratis* retreat of perhaps five hours, but she suggests the council start with a questionnaire that she and Prescott (and anyone else) put together for an anonymous-style Doodle Poll to inform the content of our discussion. The intention is to define our future and build capacity. She is willing to have it at her studio in Coupeville, but can bring her white board anywhere. Carol is executive director of Good Cheer, but she also "*co-creates evolving systems of facilitation, strategic management and human-centered systems and processes with leaders of organizations that want to find more equitable and sustainable ways of working in the world.*"

Anza had brought worksheets from the Envisioning Meeting Tilth had February 22, 2010 at the home of Karen Epifano. Anza remembered another retreat coordinated by Lynn Geri at Trinity in April? [Looking over past minutes, there was a Focus Forum at the Freeland Library March 15, 2007 and an initial meeting coordinated by Judith Gorman in 2000.] Prescott will look for notes and Andréa will photograph the sheets.

Andréa, Anza and Kirstin are interested in working on a questionnaire with Prescott and Carol. We will propose the meeting date be Sunday, November 25, second choice is November 24. We'll plan to carpool to Carol's studio in Coupeville. Questions may explore our mission and how it relates to our site plan, programs,

membership involvement and fundraising strategies. How can we do what we do, better? Formulate an action plan.

After the workshop there will be a series of monthly meetings to discuss and formulate specific aspects of the action plan. We intend to involve the membership.

**Apprenticeship/intern job description** — Prescott asked what each person missed by not having an apprentice this year. Suggestions included the lack of a focus on volunteer involvement, recruitment for work parties and help making the market function more smoothly; putting a face on Tilth in the community. The discussion explored the advertising and interview process, as well as the lack of clarity about where the money would be coming from.

With the 2019 focus on revitalizing the entrance with a kiosk and farm stand, the job description can include those pieces, plus assisting with the market and educational programs for the community and the other apprentices. Suggestions to the handout included publicity and community outreach.

Do we need an apprentice? Several members expressed interest, several expressed doubts. Prescott affirmed she is invested in seeing that we have an apprentice and will be the main lead on it. [There probably should have been a motion and vote to move forward to continue being a member of the Grow Whidbey Apprenticeship Program and to work to having at least on apprentice in 2019.]

**Annual fundraising letter process** — Ida will be invited to join Andréa to draft a letter. Andréa will invite others to help and target a mailing around the end November.

**Volunteer residents agreement update (formerly Caretaker agreement)** — Prescott distributed a partially revised agreement, but needs to finish the minutes of the September 25 special meeting. The vardo is a temporary structure on two wheels. Andréa will contact the insurance company about insurance. Send feedback to Prescott by November 1, who will have sent everyone the meeting minutes by then.

**Nominating process to the 2019 Tilth Council of Trustees** — Prescott has not started working on the process. The emphasis will be to cultivate members who can fill jobs. Trustees who will have completed their two-year terms are Andréa, Edward and Angie. Vacant positions are secretary and vice president. More names were offered. Anza and Kirstin will participate in the nominating committee. Edward will continue to find job descriptions in the file. Job descriptions will be posted on the website.

**Pre winter cleanup of the Tilth campus, set a date** — Kirstin is working on a checklist and will contact vendors. Ida will be asked to do a checklist also and to the contact gardeners. The date is Sunday, October 28, later in the day (11 a.m.?) Anza will bring food and others will have access to the kitchen.

**Tree of Life Mural status** — materials list is being formulated, Tilth has committed to two of the several boards. Pete has agreed to pick them up and put them up. The newsletter will specify needs.

**Newsletter status** — no articles submitted on deadline and other events have postponed its progress.

**Tilth holiday party** — Anza offered to host the party at MAHA Farm and Forest. She proposed we turn the party into a fundraiser, perhaps for the apprenticeship. People will be invited to bring significant raffle items to buy chances for. Discussion evolved to plan a more public major event such as bingo at another time. The party is to be Friday, December 28 at 5 p.m. for a potluck and the raffle drawing is at 7. Raffle tickets are a dollar. The raffle will benefit the farm stand project (including apprenticeship).

**Annual meeting program proposal** — Eric Lee Mader of the Xerces Society has agreed to present at the annual meeting. The proposed date would be preferably Sunday, January 27, perhaps Friday, January 25 or the Saturday the 19th.

**Angie's Party** — Consider doing it on Movie night on November 4 or at the next business meeting November 15. There will be a potluck with beverages (hard and soft). Consider a gift since she's buying a house and farm.

**Next meeting** — Thursday, November 15 at 6 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran annex. Ida will be invited to facilitate.

**Call to Adjourn** — motion to adjourn was approved at 8:03 p.m.