

South Whidbey Tilth Business Meeting

Rescheduled from December 20, 2018

Friday, January 4 at 7:00 p.m.

Old Bayview School Classroom

The meeting was called to order by Prescott, president, at about 7 p.m. Present are Council trustees Andréa Linton, Edward Hueneke and Kirstin Clauson. Ida Gianopulos is out of town. Trustee nominees present are Leah Claire and Anza Muenchow. Other members present are David Prisbrey, J.C. May and Michael Seraphinoff. FRed Rouge arrived later.

Approve minutes — The minutes of the November 15 meeting were approved as written.

Prescott explained that our meetings are not run according to *Robert's Rules of Order* but we follow the *Modern Parliamentary Procedure*, a simpler set of guidelines. The book is usually brought to meetings for reference. One example of procedure is: when a motion is made it doesn't need a second.

Announcements

1. Film night is Sunday, January 6, 6 p.m. potluck, Film: *Symphony of the Soil* at 3821 Beaver Creek Lane, Clinton. RSVP to Mark or Melissa at 360-341-1269.
2. Giving Tree donations amounted to \$210. We made 64 seed packets and have 21 left.
3. Hahna Luna would like our support promoting her January 13 Fairy Magic show at the Children's Theater.

Finance Report and Budget

Certificate of Deposit (CD) — For the record, on December 12, 2018 a motion was approved by email by the members of the South Whidbey Tilth Council of Trustees to take \$10,000 dollars of the Sustainability Fund in a Heritage savings account and putting it into a CD at USBANK; for 11 months at two-percent interest. Edward Hueneke, finance officer, and Susan Prescott, president, will oversee the set up and be signers on the account. [This was accomplished on December 14.]

Review of finances: Edward reported as of 12/31/18 there were \$5,925 in checking and \$547 in savings. He explained a transfer of \$400 from checking to savings to avoid a low-balance penalty. The \$1,000 from the sustainability fund in the Beneficial Bank account was made to provide operating funds. \$4,147 deficit is \$1,000 more than was budgeted in land infrastructure costs, also the market manager contract was not the original budget. Utilities were \$1,541 compared to \$540 budgeted and \$1,040 the previous year. [Doesn't the donation from the resident volunteers cover most of the extra?]

Budget — Edward will resend the proposed 2019 budget around again as no one had received it. He said the income projection is \$22,450 and expenses are \$23,750, showing a \$1,300 loss, which is consistent with the past five years, which is not sustainable. We're over \$9,000 deficit in the last five years. There is also nearly that amount in dedicated funds.

Edward is of the opinion that some of the land infrastructure costs should be coming out of dedicated funds. Our operating funds are drawn from the unspent dedicated funds.

Andréa concurred by asking how are we going to justify our action plan without the funds to do so. She suggests a plan to raise at least \$2,000 more a year and to reduce the deficit.

Edward explained the \$6,000 from a donor three years ago to improve the appearance of Tilth, still has about \$4,000 in the account. Prescott noted that the land steward has said she has plans for some of that money. Edward said, plans are fine, but nothing has been presented and the problem of spending more than we have is the issue. He suggests we move some of the funds to operating budget as an error in flow. Dedicated funds for irrigation should also be moved after verifying that the intended recipient who designed and installed some of the system is waiving his claim to the funds. Edward will follow up.

Annual audit report — Gary Ingram reviewed the 2017 and 2018 accounts and reported no suspicious activity. Edward read his report and it is attached at the end. An independent internal audit is required each year to be done each year after the first six months of the fiscal year.

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Apprenticeship update – Prescott reported one suggestion for the apprenticeship job description for more outreach coordination. After reviewing Good Cheer’s apprenticeship description she reordered the first part, which is only a small change. She read an update concerning the educational curriculum as a once a month class and discussion, plus field trips. It was suggested the food access be solely from the food bank and not gardens. It was suggested the garden plot be optional. Sentences relating to the garden plot were changed or deleted, i.e. keep personal garden plot under continuous cultivation was removed from scope of duties. We have \$2,459.60 is available for 2019 apprentice. Kirstin suggested we change the line to “assist the farmers’ market manager with weekly publicity and maintenance.” All approved the changes and agreed to allow Prescott to apply for the Washington State Farm Internship Project certification and to post the job description. It was noted the question of having a paid market manager and an apprentice must be addressed at the next meeting.

Volunteer residents agreement update — Prescott distributed a few copies of the December 14 partial minutes for those present. These minutes have been recorded to maintain confidentiality and will not be posted on the website. This meeting was with out the volunteer residents being present in order for members to speak freely. After much discussion it was recognized that at this time the Tilth campus does not have the facilities to accommodate a residence. Issues have clashed around use of the kitchen and restrooms during the busier months. A resolution was proposed that a letter be written as sensitively as possible explaining the facility shortcomings, asking the volunteer residents to move by April 1 and a heartfelt request that they continue their involvement with South Whidbey Tilth. The letter was later drafted by Prescott and circulated among those present at the meeting. It was approved in an email vote. See attached. Prescott personally brought the letter to the residents on December 21. She reported the letter was received with some anger, disappointment and hurt. It was suggested we offer to help them make the transition by seeking their advice. Prescott noted the recent blog post from Mokihana expresses a philosophical reaction to the impending change.

Review calendar for December, January, February — It is customary to review the next three months or more ahead to anticipate event planning. Prescott has begun a draft of 2019’s activities and requests help to fill it out. She will email the draft calendar around for input.

She also passed around a record sheet for each to keep track of volunteer hours. Being able to show funding sources our volunteer base proves our value.

Nominating committee of Kirstin and Anza reported slate of candidates. Leah noted the secretary position was open and she has explored software to transcribe recordings, she and David might like to learn more about finance, plus they want to get involved in the market planning and operation. Others on the slate are Anza, who wants to do education; Andréa will give two more years in her present role of membership, community relations and development; Edward will continue as finance chair and Lynae Slinden has agreed to serve as vice president.

Annual meeting plans — Prescott referred everyone to the feature about the keynote speaker in the last newsletter, Eric Lee-Mäder of the Xerces Society. Grigware Hall of Trinity has been reserved for Sunday afternoon, January 27. Discussion about order of activities: potluck, meeting, speaker, door prize or raffle. A poll was taken and the majority favored the speaker first. Most favored another raffle. Andréa agreed to head up the raffle. Doors open at 3:30, the speaker at 4 for 45 minutes, followed by the meeting, the potluck and drawings. Prescott will circulate a task list online.

Market — shall we have a market? Kirstin and Michael have polled vendors and most want a weekly market. Issue about lower commissions needs to be discussed. A meeting was set up for the following week, Thursday about 1 p.m. maybe at the Sears House or a coffee shop, to meet and make plans. Calendar-type people will be asking about the market dates. Kirstin reported the survey she did last season indicated people want to continue on Sundays.

Year-end appeal letter update — Several gave significant amounts prior to the fundraising letter mailing. The mailing came out just before Christmas and was mailed to nearly 200. Prescott keeps a list

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of who responds to the letter. Andréa asked to meet with Prescott to review the top donors in order to involve them more than once a year.

Newsletter — Proposal to engage Janet Richards as newsletter editor and move to quarterly publication. All approved Janet as the editor. Discussion about frequency can be determined by upcoming events. It was agreed to do quarterly starting with publication April 1. So mid March is the deadline for articles, following issues would be published around the first of June, October and January. Leah asked about what kinds of articles are needed. Education and membership committees are responsible for being involved in content. Great ideas were presented for articles such as a series of growing, harvesting and processing certain crops.

Education report — Anza proposes a monthly discussion and class called “The Farmer’s Shadow.” There would be a time for “burning’ questions, a charge, sell garden guides, say “limited to xx attenders” to create a sense of urgency. Anza isn’t prepared to offer a weekly class series this year. Kirstin, Tom, Janet, Leah and Kirstin will participate on Anza’s committee.

Sound Waters booth registration is needed pending council approval. Janet has agreed to staff the display. Anza moved Tilth have a display at Sound Waters and pay the \$25. All agreed and Edward took the paperwork to mail in with the check.

Proposal to co-sponsor “Taming Bigfoot” carbon footprint challenge — Prescott shared the PowerPoint brochure. Also we are asked to provide a raffle item. It was suggested to offer a Tilth Alliance *Maritime Northwest Garden Guide* and a membership to the raffle. FRed raised a concern that very little of the brochure addressed the effect grain-fed cows have on increasing greenhouse gas. Others noted the lack coverage about the ham caused by industrial agriculture. Edward moved Tilth support the challenge as a sponsor and Prescott will request input for wider coverage of the role of regenerative agriculture. The motion was approved.

2019 Seed Swap participation — Kathryn O’Brien of Sno-Isle Libraries is coordinating the second annual seed swap, this time with Joe Italiano who did another one last year. She’s inviting Tilth to be a cosponsor with Slow Food Whidbey Island, WSU Extension Service and the Organic Farm School. It is Saturday, February 9 at the Clinton Progressive Hall. She envisions alternating south end with Coupeville each year. Tilth is invited to have an education table and a raffle item. Motion to participate approved by all. Andréa volunteered to do the display booth.

2019 Almanac ad and free listing—Prescott presented the proposal to put an ad in the Sound Publishing Almanac at \$75 for a full color ad for nonprofits as we did last year. The Almanac is distributed on the ferry, in visitor centers and real estate offices. We also get a free listing. Prescott will distribute the listing for updates and as well as the ad by email. The deadline is January 30. It was decided we don't need to put the market dates.

Next business meeting — It was proposed we cancel the January 17 business meeting. Committees are encouraged to have planning meetings. A special meeting can be called if needed. Anza expressed concern for good planning of the January 27 annual meeting, asking, “What are we wanting to project to our members.” Michael suggested posting the notes from the December 8 planning workshop. All agreed it would be a tool to invigorate the membership and to invite people to add comments and suggestions. Prescott will circulate a task list for volunteers using volunteersignup.org. The proposal to cancel the January regular business meeting and do online planning was approved.

Grants

HumanLinks grant for farm stand is due January 18

South Whidbey Garden club grant deadline, Feb. 1. Prescott proposed we request another \$500 for our apprentice. All agreed. Prescott will circulate a draft of the grants for feedback. Most of the language is ready for both grants, but need to be customized to the funding sources’ guidelines.

Review of December 8 workshop — tabled until next meeting and will be presented at the annual meeting.

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Set time to discuss facility improvements such as caretaker cottage and classroom/office/library — Tabled until another time.

Proposal to form a community garden committee — Ida would like to create a Community Garden Manager position and committee. Tabled until February business meeting

Chose a meeting facilitator — Ida will be invited. The date and time will be selected when the new council is formed

Adjourn the meeting — Edward called to adjourn and all approved by about 8:10 p.m.