South Whidbey Tilth Business Meeting
Thursday, December 19, 2019 at 6:07 p.m.
Trinity Lutheran Church Annex, Freeland WA 98249

Board Members Present:
Susan Prescott, Lynae Slinden, Anza Muenchow, Ed Hueneke, Ida Gianopulos, Leah Claire, Andréa Linton, presiding

Others Present:
Janet Richards, Gary Ingram, David Prisbrey, Cherri Forrest

Approval of minutes:

The minutes of the 11/21/19 business meeting were approved.

A proposal was made to record meetings for minute verification and to ensure deletion of the previous month’s recordings upon approval of that month’s minutes; this proposal was approved. Attendees were notified that the meeting was being recorded.

Finance:
- A bookkeeping adjustment to clear up a $66 item in the 2018 farm internship budget was proposed and approved. (Edward to ask bookkeeper to move -$66 to internship account as a positive.)
- Ed to work with bookkeeper to show accrual of 2019 Fall Fundraising letter funds across 2019 to 2020.
- Tilth’s bookkeeper, Sharon Asplund of Peritae Accounting & Tax Services, has recommended moving from Quickbooks to Xero, a cloud-based accounting service. The $30/month for Xero + $100/month for Sharon’s bookkeeping services brings Tilth’s monthly bookkeeping expenses to $130. It was proposed that the board approve this change; it was approved.
- The importance of the volunteer hour forms was stressed and the board was asked to turn theirs in as soon as possible. (Form is on Tilth’s website home page.)

Mural:
- Cherri Forrest, a Tilth member who has been raising money for a mural project on Tilth buildings, submitted her proposal for the Tree of Life Mural project before removing herself from the meeting. The proposal included the artistic embellishment of the market storage shed (“the Heart Building,”) the market stalls, the pumphouse, bathrooms, and pavilion/kitchen. (She proposes two community celebrations and expects to finish the painting by end of summer. She’ll enlist volunteers to paint in illustrations she outlines. Some of her designs could be printed for children to color while visiting the market, etc. The pump-house side facing the driveway would say, “Welcome to South Whidbey Tilth”, and include names of founders and images of soil elements. She stated the Heart
building paintings will be on panels to be attached to the building. Some veggies would be painted on the pavilion.)

- The board discussed the proposal, including concerns about future general fundraising, the lack of a solid timeline or extensive sketches, the potential for mission creep and the board’s previous approval of the mural project in some form.
- The board voted on and approved the following proposal: the scope of the project will be limited to the Heart Building/storage shed, and the market stalls. Cherri’s vision for these buildings is approved.
- Leah offered to draft a letter or email to inform Cherri of the board’s decision.

Annual Planning Meeting
- Sunday 1/12/20, at Maha Farm, 10am-2pm
- The need for a well-defined purpose for a recurring Annual Planning Meeting was discussed. The overview and prioritization of yearly committee goals and projects will be the focus.
- Lynae and Prescott proposed to prepare the agenda and facilitate the meeting.

Land Stewardship:
- The break-in at the South Whidbey Tilth campus that was discovered 12/12/19 was discussed along with security measures and concerns, including motion-activated floodlights, lock-boxes for keys, the history of on-site caretakers, and maintenance and upkeep. The advisability of continuing to deliver a communal coffee order to the campus was discussed and alternatives suggested.
- Ida informed the board of steps already taken to improve security and replace locks and her intentions to continue this effort; the board approved the expenditure up to $200 in so doing.
- Because money was stolen from the classroom, coffee orders will now be picked up at Gary’s office 8 to 4 on weekdays and Edward will facilitate deliveries to those who cannot pickup then.
- Ida proposed the board approve the creation of a farm stand committee with the purpose of facilitating South Whidbey Tilth’s partnership with the University of Washington’s Department of Architecture’s Howard S. Wright Neighborhood Design/Build Studio to create a built-for-purpose farm stand at the Tilth campus designed to fill Tilth’s particular need. Ongoing fundraising will continue. These were approved by the council.

Outreach/Development/Social Membership
- Tilth’s Christmas party at Anza’s Maha Farm, (parking limited, White Elephant gift exchange,) will take place December 27th, 4:30pm
- Janet proposed that South Whidbey Tilth sign onto a letter of recommendation/approval for the Sustainable Farm & Fields Bill, a campaign to implement regenerative agriculture via grants. The board approved. A related survey is being done by the Washington Conservation Commission; the deadline is the end of December.
- Prescott proposed that South Whidbey Tilth cosponsor the Seed Swap taking place at the Coupeville Library on 2/8/20 at 2pm. This was approved. Prescott & Anza volunteered to attend.

- Communication Subcommittee:
  - Janet briefed the board on the Communications Subcommittee meeting which took place on 12/17/19, and reviewed aspects of South Whidbey Tilth’s communication needs, including the potential launch of a new website in 2020. The extent and goals of the subcommittee are yet to be set by the board. Notes attached.

Annual Membership Meeting:
- Members helping to set up will arrive at Trinity Lutheran Church Annex at 2:30pm 1/19/20; the membership is invited to arrive at 3pm followed by a business meeting at 3:30 and a speaker (Katie Miller of the Organic Seed Alliance) at 4pm and a potluck dinner at 5pm. This timeline was approved by the board.
- It was decided not to arrange a raffle for the Annual Membership Meeting due to lack of time and energy.
- Nominating Committee report:
  - Gary Ingram has agreed to serve as Tilth board President; Janet is also willing to serve on the board; several board positions were discussed and are TBD.

General/Secretarial/Misc. Business
- The need to review the bylaws and the process needed to change them was discussed and was tabled for further discussion.
- The development of a template for meeting minutes and consideration given to the delineation of Tilth business from membership business was introduced by Leah and will be further developed.
- The 1-year Food Establishment Permit application for the Tilth kitchen has been submitted by Ed.

Announcement
  An agreement for the neighboring 10 acres was just signed by the Agrarian Trust, https://agrariantrust.org.

The facilitator for the business meeting on 1/16/20 will be Gary Ingram.