Minutes
Tilth Monthly Business Meeting
February 20, 2020 6 p.m.

Council members present were Andrée Linton, Edward Hueneke, Lynae Slinden, Anza Muenchow, Ida Gianopulos, Janet Richards, Gary Ingram

Members present were Prescott, FRed Rouge, David Prisbrey, Donita Crosby, J.C. May, Michael Seraphinoff

1. The minutes of the January 16, 2020 business meeting were approved.

2. Fundraising: Andrea presented findings of the fundraising committee (see fundraising committee meeting minutes 1/23/20). The committee came up with a broad outline of how to get money for 5 key projects identified at annual planning meeting:
   • Market Manager - $7,500 (Anza will get information about funding at Farmer’s Market meeting she is attending in Tacoma).
   • Farm Stand - $6,000 (Two grants pending - should hear by end of month. Possible crowd funding, Leah is working on $500 from the Garden Club, Lynae will investigate the Economic Development Council of Island County).
   • Website - $1,000 (Possibly EDC or Port of South Whidbey- Prescott or Lynae to pursue).
   • There is a five-year goal for an educational building – estimated $40,000 (new or refurbishment). We need to check if there will be a property tax impact.
   • Operations manager $35,000.

3. Education: Anza announced the subject of the next Year of the Doe will be kidding at Rhonda Salerno’s house. Eric Conn could not do Farmer’s Shadow in March, so we will discuss what you need to do in your garden now: March Madness in the Garden.

4. Land Stewardship: Ida reported that the pollinator group met to discuss the plan to plant a hedgerow. The focus will be at the entrance and the hedgerow will continue along the property boundary and parking. Prepping of this area (solarization using used greenhouse plastic) will start this year. Ida to schedule work parties before the market starts.

Ida also wants work parties to renovate area around market (weeding, pruning, edging).

Prescott mentioned that there will be a community service day in April to weed the Garry Oak beds for Earth & Ocean month.

Ida says that the garden plots are full and there is a waiting list. She will have the contract ready for review sometime next week.
5. Fred made the proposal for a chicken coop (see drawings and proposal document).

Discussion:
- What if the chickens or coop are not maintained? What to be do in case the project is abandoned will be included in the agreement. We want this to set a good precedent for future projects of this sort.
- Ida reminded Fred to be careful of drain lines before trenching.
- There was a concern about insurance. What if someone were to get sick and sue? FLIP (food liability insurance program) covers you as a market vendor. All vendors should have this. But this is a burden for vendors, and in Fred’s case, making it not worth it to raise chickens.
  If we require insurance in the vendor contract, we should enforce it. If not, take it out of the contract.
  Can Tilth have an umbrella policy?
  Gary will take the insurance policy and understand how we are covered and what our choices are.

6. Prescott distributed a package of materials and a conflict of interest form to sign. Every council member must read the package and then sign the form. Come to the next business meeting ready to approve the form and sign it if there are no changes.

7. Prescott has not prepared a backpack sprayer agreement yet. There was a question of whether or not the council approved renting it out. This item is delayed until we review what was decided.

8. Prescott played a message from Severine (Agrarian Trust) about the use of the land next door.

9. David gave a market committee report (see Market Committee meeting minutes 1/31/20).

   The council asked for a revised market manager contract so that the council can approve Kirstin as market manager.

   There was some discussion of the idea for beverage service at the welcome table to replace coffee at the Laughing Cat – logistical issues that would need to be thought through. It was unclear if the committee decided on the new beverage policy, or if it is still in consideration.

10. The SWAM festival is back on! Bekah Bee will come to the next business meeting to discuss it. Could Tilth be a venue for Little Big Fest? Lynae and Prescott agreed to follow up with Bekah and invite her to the March meeting.

11. Prescott and Anza asked if Tilth would be co-sponsors at a March 31 event at Langley Methodist Church (see Sponsor Climate Crisis and Green New Deal document). They asked that Tilth have a booth at the event (no charge), and that we send out a message
encouraging members to attend. The council approved the request with the stipulation that we will inform members of the event rather than encourage them to attend.

12. Prescott said the Earth & Ocean Month publicity deadline is March 6 (Sami at Goosefoot). She requested that Tilth sponsor a Pub Talk by Penny Livingstone. The council approved her request.

13. Secretary – Janet asked if the council would like a communal calendar to be kept on the Google Drive. The council approved. Janet also described the plan to store Tilth documents on a Google Drive, eventually replacing Drop Box. She will present a structure and instructions on how to access the Tilth drive.

14. Finance - Need to approve the budget – deferred to next time (see Tilth Budget 2020 document).

   Ed asked if Power of Attorney should be given to our accountant. The council asked that he double check the restrictions on the power and that he be comfortable with it.

   Ed showed examples of the Xero finance reports, which were well-received. He asked how many people should have access to reports. The council recommended that all council members have viewing access to financial reports.

15. Why aren’t the Market Manager and Laughing Cat tills cleared out? Prescott explained she had some calculating problems and still has to go over the records.

16. Andrea wondered why we have mail delivered to Langley and proposed that we look at the system of mail delivery to see if it is efficient.

17. The next business meeting will be Thursday, March 19, 2020.

18. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted February 25, 2020 by Janet Richards