

Songaia Biogaian Meeting

Agenda Items

- Food Cycle idea
- CSA Evaluation
- Goat Plan
- Mountain Beaver
- Winterizing the Garden and Hoop House repair
- Bindweed and Blackberry
- Moving Espalier trees
- Hugleculture in south orchard

"Food Cycle" idea - task force Patricia, Helen, Brian, Michael, Doug

Biogaians will need to review the forthcoming description, bylaws and budget of the new 501c7 organization. Doug has done some research on the IRS rules for 501c7. He suggested we need to be clear about the purpose of the organization since we will be bound by those specs. Brian will put together an initial draft of the bylaws. We may want to consider asking for professional review (nonprofit expertise) before filing the forms.

CSA Evaluation

Information collected from the circle and an electronic evaluation (10 responses - 2 box, 3 garden lovers, 5 regular. The in-person review was very positive. The electronic evaluation were mixed: everyone but one said they would sign up again, but lots of request for "more of" items. Universal interest in clearer signs, maps, and tours of the produce. We don't have a way to see which user comments went with each rating. Suggest that piglets review the data and generate a list of action items related to improvement. Suggestion for pricing structure review by the "Food Cycle" task force. Kathleen will visit Ananda, talk with the 3 growers, and review their CSA process and planning, and bring back information to us.

Goat Plan

Monday, November 25, 2013

Three goats (Delight, Alice, Victoria) are up for sale (will be refreshed this week.) We will continue to list them for a fee through January 1. After this we will give the goats away - Brent will talk with his goat mentor in Arlington who may be willing (or know someone willing) to take them for free or a small fee. We are in process of purchasing an electric fence for testing in the detention pond and then moving onto the blackberries.

Mountain Beavers

The nest under the potting shed is quite extensive - a huge pile of dirt under a table in the potting shed. This could be causing an undermining of the barn foundation. We are not allowed to spring trap them, but you can live trap them and kill or release them. We would need a special permit to release them somewhere else. Can we live and let live - Sadhana with ask Nartano, about the structural issue and report back.

Assigning Tasks for Winterizing the Garden - announce a workday for Dec 14

- hoop house repair - Doug has worked on securing the ends of the north one, Brian will look at the broken struts in the north house and check to see if we have more plastic for the torn south house - don't install these till the doors are complete. Larry won't be available to finish the south bed doors till Spring.
- mulching beds - everyone, workday
- Kathleen is watering the beds regularly. Might consider reducing the frequency to every other week.
- Blackberry/bindweed clearing - goats to work on blackberries after training to the fence. South food forest has a large bindweed invasion. Workday.
- Hugleculture development - bringing compost up from down the hill during workday. The excavation soil from Unit 5 (up the hill) will be moved down by the Bansenauers. Doug will research the cost of subsoil delivery for use.

Espaliered Fruit trees

Should we move these? Cut them? Cut back the grapes over them? The group consensus seemed to be that moving them would be too much work for the potential benefit. Consider leaving them as ornamentals, or cutting them out.

Moving Asian pears from Paul Gantz property

Paul has gifted Songaia with two asian pear tree, one smaller and one larger, both are a bit large to consider moving. Re-assess in the spring or when the property spells

Next meeting - January 13th - Facilitator: Brian, scribe: Kathleen

Monday, November 25, 2013

possible agenda items: Work assessment for cottage-rent evaluation, seed purchase planning, WOOFF intern description brainstorming, goat report, Ananda report