

Biogaian Meeting
4/22/2013

Present: Katie, Patricia, Brian, Helen (scribe), Sadhana (convener), Brent, Douglas,

Check-in question: what does Earth Day mean to you?

Reports:

Bees: We currently have four hives, although one queen will need to be replaced.

Goats: Next Goat Meeting is Thursday 4/25 at noon. Brent is putting them up on Craig's list again this evening, and will be meeting with Holly Farms in case they would be of interest in a petting zoo. The goat fund is in debt for about \$2500, which also needs to be resolved. The goats might be useful in clearing the drainfield.

CSA: our financial goal was \$2250, and we have commitments for \$3350. The Piglets are managing crop planting. We will need more signs and a communications corner above the weighing station. Patricia would like to use the website more extensively for communication; she and Sadhana will discuss possibilities

Plantings: onions are almost planted; potatoes were overbought but will be planted where possible, and in any case are edible.

Tomatoes: in the past we have used 80-90 plants; this year we have 320 starts in the potting shed in hopes of selling the extras. Larry is planning to build a new hoop house for tomatoes, but it may not be ready in time. We can use the old rebar/hoops as a fallback.

Workshops: the grafting workshop made \$80 and we got 18 trees. Many more workshops are being planned. The bagged earth workshop on 6/8 will build a bridge/culvert over the ditch instead of stairs for Unit 12. A garden pantry series is scheduled for many summer Sundays for canning, pickling, etc.

Interns/volunteers:

Two women are definitely coming 6/1 for 2 months. Carolyn and Laura are students in agricultural engineering at Purdue. They will be WWOOFing in South America in May. Jean, a guest/volunteer from France, will be here for one week, arriving this Thursday.

Doug is convening the next FFF meeting. At that time we will request the hospitality of an occasional meal for the French guest and the UW students. Feeding interns is a more substantial cost. The two interns accepted for June/July would cost \$480 at full meal program cost. Since they won't have access to a full pantry, eat many leftovers, and are contributing a lot to reducing food costs, Doug will propose that the Biogaians contribute \$75 per intern per month to the FFF for the upcoming growing season. We have enough funds from CSA sales to cover intern food.

Purchases:

A time-lapse camera overlooking the whole garden would cost about \$100. Individuals have contributed \$60. We agree to use \$40 from the Biogaian budget. Brian will order the camera.

55 gallon food grade plastic barrels are available for \$20-25. They could be used as rain barrels although we would also need to buy spigots, hosing, etc. Idea tabled until next meeting.

A lightweight large wheelbarrow is requested from reserve funds. Doug is authorized to buy one from funds not spent last year.

Larger landscape

Mowing: Songaia simply does not have enough volunteer mowers. Barb and teens mow the central area, but the edges aren't tended regularly. Sheet-mulching will reduce meadow and orchard areas over time.

Drainfields: Weather cancelled a harambe that had been planned. Katie will try goat browsing and we will contact Liam about possibly organizing another harambe.

Sorenson property email: Katie believes the woodchips and compost can be moved from LSC by June 1. The materials left along the fenceline can be taken to the dump or relocated soon by Brent. Oz is the person in contact with Mr. Sorenson.

Announcements:

Doug is making a map of the property for piglet meetings.

Next meeting:

5/27, Helen facilitates, Kathleen scribes.