

Biogaians meeting 8/27/12

Facilitator: Katie; Scribe: Sadhana

Present: Katie, Doug, Adam, Max, Helen, Sadhana, Brent, Michael

Reserve spending proposal – handout from Doug

Power equipment already bought – riding mower, weed whacker, propane torch, 2 mowers

Proposed – garden carts, wheelbarrows, water timers & irrigation parts, hand tools

Question – we have “irrigation equipment” on the reserve list in 3 years; should we wait to buy these?

What about replacing hoses?

Could we get timers that are easier to use (programmable)?

Should we spend more to get more durability?

Maybe get some digital timers (10 of the 50) and experiment

Decision – Doug will revise spreadsheet with different timers, hoses, saddle hoe. Everyone is okay with the proposed carts. Contact Doug ASAP if you have other ideas.

Finishing west food forest

Bark – Brent is trying to find some but not available right now. Can probably get more in the fall.

Goats – structure & support

Katie, Avi, others? are working on a calendar for work items so people can plug in more easily. Milking may happen after the new babies are born in the fall. Details of the goat program are still mysterious to many. More info will be coming out.

Bastyr update (permaculture/holistic landscape design)

Katie summarized the Bastyr presentation. The students may be able to come & give a presentation at Songaia about their design ideas. They may want to come out and work on implementation projects.

Intern update & feedback

Three weeks now. Food is not a problem. They enjoyed the compost project. They’ve gotten busy outside of work hours so can’t do so much extra research. They are especially interested in learning more about permaculture. The yurt is available for shelter from now on if the weather worsens. Max and Adam are staying until the end of September. We are still getting inquiries from WWOOFers; do we want to continue the intern program? Evaluation will happen later when Marni is back from traveling. We could build shelters. Michael needs more help marketing workshops; can we arrange for the interns to spend some time on this (Piglets say yes).

Alder trees for mushroom project

We have some trees that could work near goats/Lost Lake. We can save money by getting more mushroom plugs and finding more logs. Can we (Biogaiaans) cut these trees or do we need some community process?

Decision – Michael will prepare an announcement on behalf of Biogaiaans that we will harvest some alder trees for the mushroom project. He will send to Biogaiaans first for review.

New keyhole garden idea (Katie)

Drought-resistant design with a pit in the middle. This could go in some of the keyholes that don't have hugelkultur. It could be considerable work to dig and to find the materials – need rocks or concrete pieces. Possible intern project (next spring?). Maybe we should not take on more new projects when the food forest isn't done, and maintaining what we have is a lot of work.

Decision – Keep this in mind, possible future project.

Blueberries – some are not getting enough sun; shaded by barn and grape arbor. Proposal is to move them to the food forest.

Decision – no objections, moving to proceed when time & labor allows

Camping next year

Community calendar for next year is in process; we need to think about where and when to go.

Planting proposals – save discussion for future meeting

- 1) Daylilies along stairway between units 7 & 9
- 2) Oasis in the meadow – black bamboo (screening, wildlife, harvest)

Parking Lot

- 1) Planting proposals
- 2) Keyhole design
- 3) Bee plans for next year

Next meeting is September 10

Facilitator: Patricia, Scribe: Brian