

Biogaian Meeting Minutes

May 25, 2015

Present – Brent, Brian, Doug, Evan, Gabriel, Helen, Kai, Patricia, Susie, Sylvan
Guests – Kirsten, Kevin

Meeting Leader - ?

Scribe – Doug

Agenda

Lawn

Our proposal to refurbish the lawn in the commons has been postponed until fall.

Canning

We are running low on pectin. Sylvan agreed to donate some.

We also need lids, both regular mouth and wide-mouth sizes. We don't need the screw on bands, just the lids with the rubber seals.

Food Waste –

We have new food waste cans. These are galvanized metal with lids and are now residing next to the dumpsters.

Kevin's Idea

Kevin came to the meeting to propose an idea. He wants to build an aquaponics system somewhere. He would prefer it be at Songaia, but will consider other venues if we choose not to approve it.

After a brief discussion, we advised him that a project of this magnitude would require community approval. We asked him to write a proposal and submit it first to the Biogaians. We would read it and make suggestions to improve it, if needed. After the Biogaians agreed that his written proposal was sufficient in scope, robustness, and clarity, we would then consider sponsoring its submittal to the entire community.

Fence

The rabbits are gnawing through the garden fence in various places now.

We discussed revisiting the original idea of creating a steel wire fence. Due to its cost, we elected not to pursue that when we first installed the fence. But now with the rabbits gnawing through the fish netting, perhaps its time to revisit that idea.

Doug suggested that instead of replacing the entire fence at one time, we could replace a section at a time over a period of 2 or more years. This would spread the cost out making each expenditure more affordable.

If we elect to replace the fish net with wire, the option putting in a concrete footer along the ground was mentioned. This would prevent rabbits or any other animal from digging under a wire fence.

Further discussion brought the following ideas to address the rabbit problem

- There are sprays that will repel rabbits. Get one of these and try it. Kai agreed to research this.
- Get Zoo Doo and spread it. Manure from carnivores is reputed to repel rabbits.

Biogaian Meeting Minutes

May 25, 2015

Doug volunteered to get current cost estimates for wire fencing and the concrete for footings.

Bindweed

The bindweed is thick in the north food forest. Sylvan agreed to work on weeding it.

Budget

A brief report that we are doing okay so far. Please send in receipts.

Horse Manure

We had a discussion on where to place the next load of horse manure. We decided to place it at the south end of the detention pond road.

We also decided to place a load of woodchips at Life Song Commons.

Action Items

- Doug will re-estimate the cost of replacing the garden fence with a more permanent wire material.
- Kai will research rabbit repellent sprays and report back to the Biogaians.
- Sylvan will donate pectin to Songaia for canning purposes.
- Sylvan will work on weeding the bindweed in the North Food Forest.