

# Biogaian Meeting Minutes

## 2021-01-26

Facilitator: Paul      Scribe: Patricia

Present: Anita, Ka, Paul, Jacob, Lucas, Helen, Matt, Sylvan, Mary, Patricia, Brian

Opening Question: What is your favorite thing about snow?

**Jonah** – he has availability, but also a vibrant and busy life, so he does need to be invited to get involved. Been working on the shelving with Sylvan and in the kitchen renovation. Jonah may be here long enough to begin working on the micro-shelter.

**Micro-shelter Update** – just got an updated design and materials list from Patrick, looking at what materials we have on hand, next step is budget and proposed cost of materials. There are a few adjustments on the design that Patrick needs to do but we can move forward. And the barn doesn't have the kitchen in it anymore.

**Forest Site Update** – did hear back from the status of the plants at the UW greenhouse. "The plant situation is really mixed up...sold many/most of them". Might be able to find some funds to purchase more. The forest committee hasn't met recently. The Forest Committee will probably need to step back and rethink the plan for the forest.

**Stairs and Earth Slope at NE Corner of the Common House** – Does anybody use those stairs? Will they use them in the future? Create an arch for the bush with stock panel? Or transplant the bush to another place – it is an Abelia. Mary was told that the stairs were unsafe and has left the bush to block the access to the stairs so people won't use them. If the question is if we want the stairs or not then we need to go back to the community and ask. There are better maintained and lit pathways and there are places on the property that need maintenance or better pathways. Paul could get a quote for repairing them if we want. Discussion around spending resources on the walkway to the front entryway...maybe a ramp.

**Transplanting Season** – Mary and Matt are working on transplanting. Moving some stuff from Crestmont and move it to the bank East of Lost Lake Road. Would it be ok to move some of the flowering current and other stuff? Would it be ok to propagate a black elderberry near the Songaia sign? Sylvan has a plan and plants to go in that area. Matt and Mary are hoping to move the blueberries during the bare root planting season. 4-5 in the terraces behind unit 3. Sylvan and Matt and Mary could work together to figure out where things should come and go to and from.

**Tall Tunnel – NRCS/FSA Update** – We are in the process of applying for a farm number with the FSA to apply for two programs – the tall tunnel and the conservation stewardship program that would potentially allow us to get funding for what we are already doing here. Brian & Anita met with someone from NRCS and they have all of the parts together needed to apply. Due

date for the applications in April. There will be a decision board proposal to put a tall tunnel in the garden. We would be asking to use some money from the community development fund to front the cost for building the tall tunnel.

**Garden Update** – greenhouse is ramping up. Tomatoes are up, so are other things. Lucas has continued with the compost and worms. Deep and difficult rodent problem – probably the rabbits. Probably also rats. Do have coyotes and owls. Watch out for garden work parties!

**Internship Update** – applications trickling in – three applications so far plus some inquiries. Questions are coming up around when the micro-shelter will be finished and COVID questions. Smaller number of residential interns – maybe a maximum of 3.

**Goats while Brent is away** – Brent is spending 3 months in China – starting in August. Is there someone/posse that will look after the goats. If not, he needs to find time for them. Paul wants to them stay and would be willing to be part of a goat posse. However, he is also planning on going back to India in the fall. Brian is willing to be part of the posse. Anita too.

**Rose Pruning April 15<sup>th</sup>** – Laura announced that she has hired someone through Plant Amnesty to prune all of the roses in 5 hours. It would be good to see if we could put together a couple of people to help by hauling the brush away. Mary will organize an extra dumpster pickup if needed. Mary willing to do some work on hauling prunings. Helen will also help. Maybe put it out to the community to see if there are others who would help. Anita will work with Laura to create an announcement for the community.

**Wood Chips** – Piglets are ordering woodchip deliver for near the swale on Lost Lake Road.

**Gate Rebuild** – Something we need to keep on our parking lot list – needs to happen before next winter. Paul might be interested in working on that.

**Broadfork** – Sylvan bought one, rather short, indestructible, we should try it before we decide to buy another one as well. We should use borrow one from the tool library as well. Think about if we need to buy a bigger one later this summer.

**Herbal Gerbils** official subcommittee of the Biogaians – need to start another small group to focus on the herbals on the property. Jacob, Matt, Anita, Sylvan are interested. There are some herbals from last years in the freezer – elderberries, etc.

**What went well:**

**What could have gone better:**

**Next Meeting:**

Tuesday March 23 7:15 pm – Patricia facilitator – Notetaker Brian