

## Biogaian Meeting Notes 3/26/2024

Attendees: Brian, Miranda, Mary, Anita, Eileen, Bonnie, Laura, Helen, Brent, Patricia, Jack, MD, Paul

Facilitator: Helen

Notetaker: Bonnie

Next Facilitator (April 23): Eileen

Notetaker: Miranda

### Topics:

**501c3 progress:** (see additional notes from Anita)

The conversation will focus on the connection between the Biogaianas and the upcoming 501c3, especially the garden internship program. The internship program will be the primary functional program of the 501c3.

- Purpose: Provide regenerative, intergenerational land stewardship education, skills, and knowledge
- Possibly provide an intern stipend
- Will the 501c3 solely take the intern program over from the G2T club? Mostly yes, overall, and overtime. Not for the 2024 internship program.

**Landscaper for Crestsong:**

Recently there have been two proposals for who can mow Crestsong:

1. Mary reached out through Katy Vincent and received a call. This person has a landscaping business and came to visit the property. The proposed bid is \$100.00 per mow as needed.
  2. MD has proposed to keep the work within Songaia and through personal connections. This proposal would be similar to what has been scheduled in the past, \$100.00 per mow, MD would coordinate this project and is asking for paid time for coordinating. Songaia tools and green bins would be used. Other landscaping tasks could be included in this if approved. Nartano mentioned at a piglet meeting that this could include part of the septic work as well. There is a need for community landscape and work to be done but needs some systematic organization. MD confirmed the work would be completed if this proposal is accepted. Regularity would help keep the time of the mowing to a more consistent 1.5-2 hrs. Tools needed are a weed wacker and blower.
- Something coming out of this discussion is that there could be a coordinator for paid work that needs to be organized and managed.
  - Waivers should be used for anyone who comes here and does paid work
  - Could MD do some documentation about how this work was done, the time it takes, the next steps, what was learned, and the best ways to go forward, etc.

Result = MD won the votes and will take over the mowing for Crestsong, yay!

**Announcement:** New tool was purchased with some money from the budget last year and a new cart was purchased and assembled. It has puncture-proof tires!

**Pawpaw pickup:** There are 7 Pawpaw trees in the food forest and at NES, pawpaws need to cross-pollinated. These trees like to cross-pollinate with different varieties, Mary ordered some from a nursery and they are ready to pick-up in Onalaska, WA. They could call and pick-up from Olympia farmers market. It is time to transplant.

- Some people are already in the area: Patrick and Scotty, Lark and Oz are all going/or in Portland
- Is anyone willing to drive to Olympia farmers market this Saturday?

**Goat care:** Brent is becoming a world traveler and proposing that more people take on goat care. Brent would like more help and proposed to the piglets if they could take over goat care. Questions that arise are:

- If Brent is not here, who takes over goat care, and if the goats get injured, is there a point person for that?
- From the piglets meeting- it would be good to clarify exactly what is needed for goat care. Some disparity as to what is the best care for goats. Who decides what is the best care for the goats..Biogaians, Brent
- Not just a biogaian conversation, could also involve chicken posse and the entire community
- A clarification to be made: Does Brent want to pass on ownership of goats to the Biogaians or does he just need help when he is gone?
- Would the payment of the goats be covered by a budget line because it intertwines with invasive control? NRCS grant pays for some, Brent pays for some. There is some money in the budget for vet care, no money in the budget for daily chores,
- Goats have been valuable for blackberry control instead of more harmful methods
- Need: a goat person, or goat posse team while Brent is gone = Anita, Paul, (West may be interested need to ask them), Jack would be interested to be on the team but not sole responsible, they will volunteer to be on the goat posse list (Sighlin and Nate may be interested-need to be asked). The winter has needs because many people go away during that time. Someone needs to ask Barb to create an email:  
goatposse@songaia.com

### **Parking Lot:**

Pipe in dry farming

Intern report

Gate and rabbit fence repair

NW quad and alternatives