

Biogaian Meeting Notes

06/22/21

Facilitating: Helen

Scribe: Anita

In attendance: Anita, Laura, Patricia, Mary, Matt, Reuben, Ka, Jacob, Helen, Eileen, Brian, Brent

What did you see in the natural world today that gave you pleasure?

### **Announcements**

#### Water Retention System inspection coordinator- Laura

For the last few years, Laura has been coordinating the work in the surface water management system for inspection. She's ready to pass the baton. She is taking off the hat. She has written up a job description and can train someone to learn the ropes for the surface water retention system.

#### New Garden funds follow up- Anita

Brent motions that we purchase the high tunnel and go through the process of getting funding from the Community Development Fund. That would require putting together something for the community, a proposal.

What's the timing? Purchasing takes time, setting up takes time 2 weeks? Space in the garden open up for installation? I wouldn't see it being too easy to install with stuff in the garden. Fall would be a better time for assembly?

Eileen: I can be on a task force

What is the timing that we have things out of the garden? Early October? Mid-October?

Patricia: I am curious about the proposal aspect of it

Anita: I can put together a draft proposal

Ka: May be safer to wait for funding

Brian: Something to consider might be seeing how much assurance is forthcoming around the repayment of that. It might be nice to get something like a quote or strong statement from the NRCS. No matter what, we do have to buy it and then get reimbursed. Including reimbursement structure in proposal.

#### Tansy ragwort – Ka

They're sneaky! Down by goats. Watch for them! We don't want those blossoms.

### **Processing/Decision**

#### Midyear tool replacement - Helen, Anita

Piglets will make a list and fetch what we need

#### Burlap bag redistribution – Helen

We tentatively discussed using the old burlap in the orchard with a layer of loop poop, bags, then chips. How does that idea strike Mary?

Mary: What labor will we have for it? What tripping hazard will this introduce? It's pretty labor intensive and I am not going to get it done if I'm the only person doing labor in the orchards. We would want to mow or chop and drop first. That would all be great to do, but my concern is the labor and the uneven ground.

Patricia: We did that method, and we may be able to get community to do it.

Mary: The easiest place to start would be crestmont. The south and west orchards would be challenging.

Do we feel good about the July 3rd work party being geared toward the orchard? YES!!!

Anita will work with Mary to look at the Orchards and talk about which trees to mulch.

#### Clopyralid report/next steps – Helen

The last load of manure that was put out on the garden is apparently contaminated with Clopyralid or one of its relatives. It's causing some of our tomatoes and sunflowers and other plants to curl. The Piglets were noticing that the squash weren't thriving. They were pale green and not growing. Around that same time Mary sent out a notice about a talk on an herbicide contamination. Having gone through an episode in the Ppatches in the early 2000s i wanted to watch. We noticed that the tomatoes seemed affected by clopyralid. It is a compound that takes several years to break down. The advice is to keep adding microbes or compost tea and spreading it on the affected beds. We are seeing some positive effects on the tomatoes. What was recommended to test for clopyralid was a bio-assay. Helen performed a bio assay, and found lower germination in some of the manure from one side of the manure pile. The lettuce that came up doesnt look curled and neither do the beans. We gathered that we probably shouldnt use the manure pile for another year. Mary suggested we use the loop poop and try to step up our own compost system. It's not dangerous to humans, supposededly. It's used very widely in grainfields.

Brian: Is the manure from the horse farm?

Yes.

We need to tell the community that they may not want to use the manure on their personal gardens.

#### Future meetings in-person/hybrid? - Helen

##### Reports

##### Plaza landscaping - Matt

Matt: I completed a budget proposal draft and met with brian, currently working on a finalization, will present that to the biogaains and the plaza committee. Getting most of the work done through work parties. Got approval for getting wholesale prices. Half to a quarter price that they are in retail.

##### Herbal Gerbils - Jacob? Matt?

Gotten a lot of good things done so far. 9 members. Talking and planning, next ones going forward will be work parties, harvesting. Matt and Jacob finished the herb spiral. Got plants planted in the ground. Proposal for apothecary. Meeting with Zone 1 for that. Some money

toward irrigation and medicine making supplies. Monthly newsletter, will send to community. The group is still evolving with the season as we learn how to be a group.

### Garden Report - Anita, Elizabeth

#### Orchard care - Mary

I have been slowly working my way around doing fruit thinning. Haven't started doing summer pruning, but watching videos. Sometimes I haul a load of loop poop and woodchips. Pruned my first plum yesterday. There's no telling if it will be dry in Aug or Sept, so I've been bouncing around trying to do that. Orchard hygiene--don't leave any fruit or leaves or branches on the ground underneath because they're all disease vectors. We need to empty out the dropped fruit from the netting. Lori from the fruit tree society will be back in August.

About 75% chance Matt's work will come out and do a workshop and labor offer.

Raffa and Reuben built a beautiful cage around the blueberries in the garden.

#### Pollinator Garden – Patricia

Patricia: I'm having a lot of fun. 21 Acres started a pollinator garden last year. This year they needed someone to coordinate the care of the garden. I took it on. It's been fun because there are a lot of people really interested. There are 6 people on the team. We have a lot of ideas of how this could affect the whole sammamish valley. It's a balm to my soul. My team wants to do a tour of Songaia.

There's a section by the oasis that we are thinking about putting in a miawaki quick growing forest, or hedgerow or pollinator garden. Matt's interested in weighing in on that, we may be able to get money from the NRCS for that.

### **Parking Lot**

Truck replacement pledges

Garden gate replacement

#### Microshelter additional funds needed?

Fundraiser? Decision board proposal for Community Development Fund?

Is there someone who'd be willing to write a proposal? Eileen will write a decision board proposal for getting the microshelter additional funds from the community development fund.

### **Meeting Evaluation and Planning**

what went well? The joy, the agenda, the facilitation. The reassurance.

what might work better next time? Someone stepping forward to take Laura's place on the drainage issues.

Shall we go hybrid next time?

Eliz: Hybrid one time, try it!

Ka: I am going to miss connecting so easily. I can choose to be there in person, and sometimes that will be manageable.

Brian: Projecting in the dining room!

NEXT meeting: July 27th  
Facilitator: Anita  
Scribe: Laura