

Biogaian Meeting

Facilitator – Patricia; Notes – Brian

Check in - What spot do you have ideas / hopes for changes?

- North of the goat shed and the path there to the garden
- Gravel pathways in the garden, getting mushy
- My own yard - the garden often takes priority
- The area east of Unit 12
- The edge of the forest near the power lines; replanting trees as the alder ages out
- Picnic table area near the grape arbor
- Circle garden at the end of the grape arbor
- East side of the barn and entrance to the forest has tansy ragwort
- South border of the forest where the developer planted natives; they are dying

Agenda

- Micro-shelter Work – Matt & Anita

Finished wall 3 of 4; Have spent a little under half of the budget. Finally found a way to get the completed walls out of the barn ;-)

- Forest Site – Anita

The site remains pretty much as it we left it after the first UWREN work party - archangel has not grown back in much. As a result of COVID shutdowns, the remaining parts of the UWREN program plan was cancelled and UWB no longer has the plant starts that were planned for the project.

- Stewarding Group Proposal

Attached proposal to recognize Anita's work with the NRCS to substitute for her UWREN coordination (originally contracted last year at \$1500). The NRCS work includes research on the program, establish contacts, complete FSA application for a farm number (required to apply for any grants); apply for two major grants: EQUIP (high tunnel) and grant funding for work we are doing already (like using goats for blackberry control.)

The proposal was briefly discussed and approved by consensus

- Greenhouse & Garden – Elizabeth & Anita

Transplants/ starts - many tomatoes, peppers. Arugula, lettuce spinach are being planted in the garden. The mulching from last year has worked exceptionally well. Keyhole feels really orderly and getting ready to receive strawberries. Garden work party has been rescheduled for Saturday. Some participation from community members is enlivening the space.

Some issues: Some light fixtures in the greenhouse needs replacement bulbs. Quite a bit of rat holes in the garden - rat balls are in a tote near the fountain. Please take care to put away tools (especially sharps) so that Alex. Straw is needed to mulch keyhole strawberries - ask Brent to get another bale.

- Fruit and Nut Trees & Bushes – Mary & Matt

Fruit trees are budding out! Mary is using four wholistic sprays over time (1/4 inch green; pink smile, petal drop, and once more). Mason bees will be needed soon. Blueberries have been transplanted - four in the terraces behind unit 3; two in the hügelkultur (looking GREAT), five still remaining to be moved. Matt has rooted several elderberries (just water). Peach was planted and it's showing signs of life. Experimenting with dispersing some of the rubarb and horseradish through the orchards to interrupt the buttercup

- Tall Tunnel – Anita & Brian

We submitted an application for Songaia's Farm number is still being processed, which is needed to be recognized for any grant. We hope to have it in time to apply for the high tunnel grant in April, otherwise we will need to wait till Fall to apply.

- Interns – Anita

Interviewed a potential intern, Raphaelle, considering for beginning of May. We'll be interviewing another potential intern Phoebe tomorrow. Both candidates are fully vaccinated for COVID.

- West Wetland report - Ka

Ka has been planting natives in the west wetland. The skunk cabbage is popping up there.

- Rose Pruning - April 15 – workday possibility?

Laura has organized (and funded) a person to prune the garden roses. Patricia asked if we could gather energy for a workday simultaneous with the rose pruner to help move cuttings, tie up roses, etc. Laura will look into this.

- Dining Room Stairs to Driveway – Paul (starting in May)

- remove & relocate the Common House sign

- Install concrete block pavers in the gaps behind the railroad ties for a more even tread, hopefully safer and lower maintenance. This of pavers flush with this of railroad ties
 - Handrail installation, if it happens will be after above tasks are completed
 - Can someone move the abelia? Sylvan suggested moving it to the oasis area; will work with Patricia to figure out specific location. Potentially replace the Abelia with sword fern and oregon grape.
- Invasive Control ideas - Sylvan
 - Fungus growing on blackberries on south end of east hugelkultur ; wonder if we can identify this and might cultivate it for invasive control. Sylvan will send photo to county extension to identify it. Also suggesting investigating a beetle that eats only the morning glory family (includes sweet potato) for use here.

Parking Lot

- Gate Rebuild
- Broadfork
- Piglets and biogaians need to talk about the Garden Depot
- Guywires for Plaza shade covering

Announcement

Brent wants to remind us that he will be gone from August through October. Paul, Anita, and Brian expressed interest in working with the goats while he is gone - need a commitment.

Bees died this winter. Brent is working on getting new hives

Reflection on Meeting:

- What went well? We like each other and laugh together; sharing photos; well prepared proposal, easy to adopt; nice to have Patricia back
- What could have gone better? Lots on the agenda - past bedtime for some. Perhaps go to two meetings a month soon

Next Meeting:

April 27th – Facilitator - Brian ; Notes - Laura

Approved Proposal: Swap Garden Steward winter contract work from UWREN to NRCS

In the summer of 2019 the Biogaians formed a partnership with UWREN (UW Restoration Ecology Network), a program from UW to work on rehabilitating our forest. A group of students would make a plan to restore a section of the forest, and provide work parties and plants to accomplish the plan. Biogaians approved \$2000 towards this project, \$1500 to Anita to work with the students and \$500 towards materials. Under Anita's guidance, in the fall of 2019 and early spring 2020 the students developed the plan and came for one work party before Covid-19 stopped all UW activities.

Anita was paid the full \$1500. The UW professor waived the \$500 payment for plants, with the intention of gifting them to us in return for the loss of student help. Anita planned to continue to organize work parties with Songaia volunteers in the spring of 2021 to install the plantings. However, we recently learned that the plants were mistakenly sold away, so the materials for implementing the forest plan are no longer available.

Instead, in the winter of 2020-2021 Anita took on managing two complex grants from NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service), one for a High Tunnel for the garden, and one to support sustainability practices, many of which we are already doing. The Garden Steward's winter functions are minimal; the only winter "deliverables" in her contract are arranging for composting of kitchen waste and communications with potential summer interns. So this work was in addition to her role as Garden Steward.

The group that works with the Garden Steward (Diane, Brian and Helen) proposes that the Biogaians agree that the money originally paid Anita for managing the UW students has de facto been shifted to managing the grants from NRCS.