

Biogaians  
Meeting Minutes  
2/18/2017

Brian (convener), Helen (scribe), Susie, Sadhana, Douglas, Laura, Patricia, Mary, Sylvan, Brent, Jacob, Diane

Check-in question: what are we looking forward to doing with the interns?

A note from Gabriel Degodoy was read aloud. He is in Portugal now, involved in an agricultural project and is applying for master's programs in Europe.

#### Microshelter

Update: Construction of a microshelter for summer interns will be in four stages.

Thursday, March 2, 10am. Tyler, Nick, Patrick and Patricia plan for the shelter build and make a materials list. 80% of the materials for the foundation are already in the barn.

March 22, 23, 24. Path will be laid out to site, including load of gravel. Care must be taken not to degrade the slope or the drainfield.

March 25. Foundation build, considered part of workshop.

March 31, April 1. Build workshop. Two people are signed up already, 15 maximum.

Questions: Community approval was dependent on consensus during the walk-about.

Help needed: Patricia needs help with the pathway build, finding and purchasing materials, soup for each day. Participants are to bring anything they want beyond soup. Price of workshop is \$40. More meet-up ads go out this week. We will ask Chris Wade to send to our email lists as well. Brent, Sylvan and Mary are planning to attend.

#### Tree Planting

All 15 trees got planted and protected. We still need to obtain chestnut and western red cedar, to be ordered from Burnt Ridge. Hopefully Patricia will pick them up at permaculture meet-up April 4 at 21 Acres. Topic is perennial fruit and nut plants for Pacific NW by Michael Dolan. Brian and Sylvan will consult Burnt Ridge catalog, spending up to \$100.

#### Rabbit Protection

Sylvan thinking of putting out seedlings, but concerned about rabbits. Cover with remay? We got a good laugh at the write-up for commercial rabbit repellants.

#### Intern update

Inquiries coming in from UW students, but so far we don't have anyone interested in the early part of the season. 6 days/week is a barrier to some. Several applications have been sent out. Piglets plan to interview if applications are sent back. Sylvan will spread the word with her contacts at Evergreen. Stacey is planning to come back May 1-late Sept, partly with Journeys and partly with us. We will hopefully also have some non-residential interns. If the educational aspect gets ramped up enough, we might be able to charge for internships.

Bio photo board idea was remembered.

#### Equipment maintenance agreement

Update: Rough drafts of contracts with Radiant Results and G2T/Songaia have been drawn up, but without a dollar figure. Facilities is also working on a contract, which could eventually include Biogaian items as well. Truck maintenance/minor repair may need to be done under G2T with Doug's

permission. A list of landscape machines has been drawn up but we're not clear if all the machines are usable. Patrick and Nartano are working on a comprehensive inventory of motorized equipment.

Next steps: Susie, Helen and Nartano need to meet to discuss pricing and clarifying which machines are "keepers." There will need to be room for major repairs as well as routine maintenance within each line item. Also, anything that's done outside the maintenance contract needs to be billed in a timely way, i.e. 30 days.

#### Blackberry removal

James likes to dig roots, but wants someone else to chop vines. Luckily, Sylvan likes to cut them. They both need to be shown the area west of Lost Lake that must be cleared. Patrick and Brian are the two people who have the best idea of what exactly needs to be cleared. This is a good time to do the job. Next month we can see what progress has been made and make arrangements for hired labor if necessary.

#### Compost plan

Jacob eventually got shredder started, but did two cans alone with a machete! This coming Saturday morning, 3/4, Jacob, Patricia, and Diane agree to make a pile.

#### Piglet start-up

Piglets have plan to communicate each others' availability. Idea is to post a list each week of who's available when. What about using the chalkboard downstairs for availability posting and list of things to be done? What about a regular piglet meeting to generate lists of things to do? Anybody could call a piglet meeting. Patricia's not officially on duty until mid-April. Some subgroup is available most mornings, but outside work is obviously also dependent on the weather. We agree that having food available makes the work more appealing.

#### Plan for next meeting

Monday, 3/27 after dinner. Helen is convener. Mary or Patricia will scribe, depending on Mary's work schedule.