

Biogaian's Meeting: April 24th, 2017

Present: Susie, Sadhana, Jacob, Patricia, Brian, Helen, Mary, Laura, Doug, Sylvan.

Facilitator: Patricia

Note Taker: Jacob

Blackberries:

Initially unclear information on whether Hayrah had gotten a quote, but was resolved upon her eventual phone call.

Upon the call, we have decided that Monday May 1st, at 8 A.M, there would be a walk around with an individual or group of individuals to obtain a quote on the job.

Questions arose on whether herbicides' were the most practical and cost effective solution to the curse of the blackberries. Performed by an establishment named Restoration Society.

Depending on cost, we will either use a hopefully safe treatment from an herbicidal company, or humans.

Budget is \$3000

The east culvert and the blackberries around the willow need to be included in the estimate of removal.

Patricia and Brian will meet blackberry man for a Free estimate at 8:00 a.m Monday may 1st.

Budget:

Total Spent to date in the Biogaian budget \$456.11

Microshelter Report: Total spent on the Microshelter \$3,400

Made 200 dollars on the micro shelter workshop.

Intern budget different than planned, but necessary.

Each Biogaian that attended has Copy of Budget Lists.

Microshelter:

May not be bringing in as much money as were expecting on the micro shelters. But we are still bringing in more than they cost from the collaboration with 21 Acres.

Next workday is on Wednesday the 26th.

Group Inquiry-Susie:

A Travelling Group of generous road explorers are making their way on a bus tour through the states, where they stopped through the rainbow gathering and have only eaten a raw vegan diet the whole

time. They will be going through the northwest and would love to visit Songaia to spread their energy and good deeds upon us, while enjoying us as well. Once they arrive we will have various tasks planned out for them, which are not completely precise yet. Micro shelter work, digging, garden and/or blackberry root pulling. Space is not yet completely planned out for them, though various options are available. This group is named *Grateful For Grace*, and it is undetermined whether or not these people will come until it is proposed and confirmed with the rest of the community that this is ok. They would arrive around July, Susie will follow up with them, and Brian will write the proposal. Questions arose on their meals, dietary preference and their source. More information will be retrieved and the proposal will be presented soon.

Grass: After the festival of the earth the grass guy will do some reseeding.

Trees/Planting and trimming around roof:

Planting of trees on festival of the earth day.

Brian knows of possible locations for the trees to be planted.

11 trees in all. 2 cedars, 5 chestnuts, 2 spirea, and 1 walnut.

Ceremony of planting of Trees led by- Jacob, Mary and Patricia – We should ask Hayra if she wants to help design it too.

Rat Report – tree trimming recommendation.

Trim the trees four feet from roof gutters?

If so, we will find a known, considerate caring arborist...Scott.

Brush Disposal:

Burning Fire Party in the Goat Pen!

Brush at Journey, Life song commons and various other locations.

Burning the brush pile may be the best option.

Moderate Burning. Burn until we get caught, and if we don't, then keep on burning!

The brush has become a burdensome mind and eye sore, so it must be destroyed. A proposed Possible efficient way to start can be to cut the pile into smaller pieces, to make it easier to put it through a chipper that we have. That, plus burning.

We are going to take an educational approach on eliminating the brush in a consistent manner that will progressively diminish it. People involved will be taught how to identify Brush and learn of proper areas and methods of disposing it.

Brian and a small group will outline recommendations of disposal for the various organic contents.

Blueberries: Some Blueberry Bushes in the circle garden will have a new home in the dying out raspberry patch by the barn.

Rabbit Fence: We have fence post, wires, posts, money and concrete, though we need time and energy. Renting a ditch witch may be necessary for this job. This is put on the parking list.

We are thinking of possible approaches to doing this fencing.

Think about interface of garden and fencing.

Gathering Space: Coming soon this year.

Brian and Ian worked to widen the path for life song commons. Five hours of work together. Chuck and Marilyn were thankfully happy to see the improvement.

Somebody checked out paths with over growth, and may have possible solutions.

Next Meeting: May 22nd, 2017

Jacob (Facilitator)

Laura (Scribe)