

Biogaians
10/28/25

Present: Anita, MD, David, Patricia (facilitator), Helen (scribe), Laura, Eileen

What have you noticed that you never noticed before?

Black-capped raspberries (native) in forest, bobcat seen and heard, three specific crimson maple trees, gold tree in #5 yard, hollyhock seeds, fat chunky mushroom by the willow, cathedral trees in a storm,

Compost

Completion: needs adding the wood pieces for slats and wood around the top for potential lids. Returned half the remaining concrete blocks, and left some on Lost Lake. Brian is committed to finishing the project. Don't need intern help to finish.

Making new piles—will be a big job; we could make 4 piles and deal with much of the backlog of food and biomass.

Winter piles—is Reuben still overseeing compost? Anita will check in with Reuben.

Apples

Harvest Saturday rain or shine. Patricia and Laura pulling equipment together. Prioritize apples for pressing first: one tree on driveway, another along Lost Lake. Netted trees can wait. Netted ones can be eaten fresh and stored. Anita can coordinate the ones that are left (only 4 trees).

Cider pressing scheduled for 11/8. David won't be here, would need someone to return the press. Anita to check in with Susie, Dave Himes, Tammy and Brian to see if they are willing to lead pressing and clean/return press. MD has friends who might be willing to help cider pressing or harvest good apples to donate, but wouldn't want the unnetted apples. If no one is willing to pick up cider facilitation, we can offer the apples to food bank.

Trees

David: quite a bit of wind on weekend. Big branch fell on David's empty parking space. He took care of hanging limbs from the tulip tree.

Neighbor has limb from Journey's maple hanging over his house. David gave him the names of arborists. The neighbor will arrange for it to be removed.

LSC branches on driveway. Need to be 13-6" off the ground. LSC thinking about hiring an arborist. A work party under David might work, but it would take some time to arrange, as would an arborist. David will talk to Lark.

Libby's 4 blue spruce in pots need a home. Is that something the forest would absorb? No place in our open landscape. SE corner of forest could use more trees. No aftercare would be possible. Jack, Erin, Brian would probably help. David can point out the location if Libby wants to organize the planting.

Garden

Lots being done this week. Timers have been taken down. Nartano wants to do one more septic check before turning off water. Brent is getting bags. Taking plastic off the hoop house can be coordinated later if needed. Anita is prioritizing intern help with zoo doo. Later this winter it would be good to get more wood chips and have a workday. Laura and Helen will put dahlias to bed after first frost.

NW Quad will need a plan. Currently has grass and a significant weed seed bank. Spread plastic sheeting now over grass? Where do we have black plastic? It would be good to see how food production went with only two quads plus dry farm/Unit 3. Longer term idea: community garden for grandmas in surrounding neighborhood?

Intern sendoff Thursday 6:00. Izzy giving presentation about food forests.

Water shut off

Nartano did it last year for Crestsong. Helen will put out message to Nartano. Conversations happening about turning off other irrigation before frost.

Plants near walkway

Eileen would like to use a hedger. How about asking all the homeowners to take care of their strip? Anita/MD will take care of Unit 8's interface with sidewalk. Eileen has most difficulty right before ramp to CH. Patricia and Aditi cut back ivy last year, needs to be re-done. Patricia willing to do it again. Shrubs at edge of Peace Garden also impinge but needs more finesse than a hedge trimmer. Eileen willing to wait on that section if the entrance to the ramp can be cleared soon.

Leaf removal

Laura will send out email about leaf-blowing to get leaves off the lawns and paths. Dave H, Phil and Scotty can be asked individually. Leaves also need to be carted to the garden or the pile west of the waste bins. Barb has been willing in the past to take leaves to the pile. MD also available for this task.

Parking lot/grassy meadow:

Biogaian barn area clean-out

Ponder NW Quad

Hiring someone to remove/dig out ivy near ramp next year

Re-look at path edge plantings

Next meeting: 11/25, Facilitator Helen, Scribe Laura.