

Biogaian Meeting Notes – August 19, 2013

In attendance: Brian, Kathleen, Patricia (scribing), Brent (facilitating), Douglas, Sadhana?, Katie, Louise, Leila

Next meeting: September 23rd with Patricia facilitating and Sadhana scribing.

Note: The September 8th meeting will be cancelled and the Biogaians who can will attend the tour and potluck dinner at the Beacon Hill Food Forest that evening.

Agenda Items:

- Goats
- Beacon Hill Food Forest Tour
- Permaculture Convergence
- Bees
- Chickens
- Visioning Next Year
- Rose Project

Budget for the goats – the current proposal is for \$650 a year to keep 6 goats on the property. The details can be found in the proposal being developed by the Goat Committee.

Katie: Feeling that the goats may not want to be here anymore. They don't want to stay in the electric fence and it is a lot of work to move the fence. There are a very small number of community people who are interested in having the goats. Katie is looking into an animal rescue organization that may be able to take the goats.

Brian: The energy around the goats is maybe more about the difference between the agreement and what actually transpired. The agreement was for three. It does take some passionates. Brent has been a passionate for a long time but there is a small group that has a passion for. Doesn't agree that the community doesn't want the goats here. But the community does want to get back to the agreement for the number and how to do it in a fiscally sustainable way. They are a great introduction to the community, they are a good educational piece, and they do a good job of knocking back the blackberries.

Katie: To keep the goats here and to keep them fiscally sustainable is difficult – don't want to support breeding them. It is hard to sell young male goats without them becoming food.

Brent: Very surprised to hear Katie's exasperation and idea about sending them to a rescue place, not pleased with the options. Goat rescue places want the people who give the goats to them to take some part in caring for them.

Katie: To provide the goats with proper area takes money and energy and she just doesn't have the energy to do it. She wants more involvement and commitment from the community.

Brent: He is going to continue on because he very much wants to have the goats. Hasn't been a great deal of best care and attention to the goats.

Katie: Spending the time with the goats makes it clear that they want more from the community.

Brian: Need a balance of giving energy to the goats and getting something back.

Patricia: Frustrated by this interim space that we are in – no agreement on how the goats will be funded and the debt that is owed to the community for the past expenses of the goats.

Brian: Charges built up to about \$2300 charged to the goat fund. Tasked with where we might go and find some funds to apply to this debt. Go back to the agreements from previous years. The Biogaians had agreed to pay \$7 a month for the last several years. \$140 to the Biogaian budget to correct the books in past years. This leaves about \$1800. There are a number of funds in the Abundance Fund that have not been spent. Brian is working on a proposal for the

community to consider that could retire some of this debt. This would be a proposal and the community would need to agree with it.

Summary: Really can't do anything until the proposal for the goat funding gets put out to the community. Katie should submit the receipts for expenses to be reimbursed.

Beacon Hill Food Forest Potluck & Tour

We will be going to the potluck and tour on September 9th instead of having our 2nd Biogaian meeting that night.

Report on the Convergence

Maddy – impressed with the scale and globality of permaculture. Think we ought to grow willow huts. Bunch of hippies, needs to be more diverse.

Keynote speaker Jenny Pell was the most exciting, especially her story about the changes in the gray water policies in King County. Is there a way that we could work on this issue in Snohomish County? The question is how it gets mainstreamed. Policies change, skills are needed to implement new policies, universities begin to train new technicians.

Bees

4 hives of bees. One made it through the winter. 2nd hive is doing very poorly, probably because the construction of the Warey hive was not perfect. 3rd hive, purchased from a professional is doing really well. 4th hive is one that was split off from the 1st hive. Kathleen's Langstroth hive is not doing well, probably because of some problem with the queen.

Chooks (chickens)

We need to reintroduce chickens. We need to get an action team for a design and implementation plan for a chicken coop 2.0. People interested: Brent, Maddy, Patricia, Leila and Louise.

Visioning of the Next Year

The potential vision for this year is thinking about how the internship program might grow outward, especially around learning about community. Input from the interns about what they have learned about community during their stay would be very helpful.

Maddy – appreciates the work in the community garden but thinks it would be helpful if the interns could also do a project that includes something they are doing in the garden that they would have to figure out on their own.

Brian has joined the Rites of Passage Journeys – they are interested in developing the space up by the stable to make it more accessible for the interns in the larger program.

Rose Project

The roses have been numbered and labeled and photographed.