

Biogaian Meeting
8/25/14

Journeys Facilities Plan: Brian presented a three-stage plan for upgrading the Journeys area. The first stage is replacing the current yurt and moving it to the location of the current storage locker. A grant application for \$20,000 is being submitted for a replacement yurt. Two alder trees would need to be removed if this location is adopted.

The second stage is renovating the current yurt location into an open-seating plaza/firepit. The third stage would be revitalizing the stable, which would require a capital campaign. Eventually the stable would be secured and rat-proofed for an office, food and equipment storage and short-term sleeping area. Several other trees would be removed at this stage. Eventually a solar shower and compost toilet could be added.

Plans will be drawn up and presented to the Biogaians for adjustment before going to the community as a whole.

Interns: Currently Tessa Altstatt and Amy Zhang. Tessa is already at Songaia, Amy arrives 9/5 from Arlington, VA. Both will stay until mid-October. Amy has a degree in civil engineering and is considering moving to the Pacific Northwest. Patricia will ask last year's interns to send snail mail addresses to Brian for copies of Songaia 2013 DVD.

Plum tree near unit 12. Carol is considering having the tree removed because of the messy fruit fall at this time of year. Biogaians have authority over the planting and removing of large trees, but how the fruit fall could be managed is unclear. One suggestion was that interns, who are here at this season, could be asked to keep the walk clean as their Common House cleaning job, which otherwise hasn't been asked of them. Laura will have a conversation with Carol about her sense of urgency about the removal of the tree, and whether help with cleaning the walks would make a significant difference in her desire to remove the tree.

Rabbit fence--we agreed that the temporary fence, with upkeep, will be sufficient for next year.

Apple pressing--small batches have been done several times, with the next two pressings scheduled for 8/26 at 1pm and 8/30 immediately after breakfast. More apples will need to be picked, and the juice either stored in James' freezer or used for Saturday morning meals.

Creatures--Goats are happy and comfortable. Bees are prolific but didn't build much comb. Kathleen harvested 4 combs, with BeesKnees spinning and bottling it. Brent does not plan to take any honey from his two hives until they overwinter.

Goat Finances--Brent plans to make the goats his personal pets when the money Avi raised is exhausted. The historic debt of the goat fund could likely be handled while cleaning up all the small designated funds that are currently on the Songaia books. Patricia requests that Brian and Barb meet with her to design a proposal for a community consensus as the books transfer from Songaia to GTC.

Barberry by main path needs to be trimmed or removed. Piglets will review issue, check with Michelle, and likely remove it.

Checkout question: what are we hoping for the end of the season in the garden?

Next meeting: 9/22/14. Helen is facilitator, Kathleen is scribe with Doug as backup. Doug will check

with Kathleen about her availability.