

Biogaian Meeting
5/30/2023

Present (on zoom): Helen (scribe), Eileen (facilitating), Patricia, Ka, Mary, David

Check-in question: what is your special focus on the land as a Biogaian?

Reports:

Garden/Interns: Last two weeks have been big push. Thanks to many hands, most crops have been planted out and irrigated. First intern arrives 6/22. Laura especially helpful, also Bansenauers and several Friday volunteers.

Orchard: we are past pollination and sprays. Thinning now, netting next week. Not all trees producing this year but fruit is growing in size. Mowing in process.

Forest: Forest committee still stabilizing. June 6th meeting, will talk about forest maintenance, 2 dead trees, question about root rot—an expert thought our problem might not be root rot, but what is the problem? Replanting? Invasive removal plan? Groundcovers can become monocultures. An unknown person is raking paths in the forest, which may contribute to erosion.

Cultural Planting: 2022 plantings are thriving. Plan for NRCS chief Terry Crosby to tour our urban ag site with an entourage of folks from DC. Goats and chickens and bees etc. as demo.

North meadow: moving to a new black-plastic ground covers instead of a purchased cover. East edge next to pathway is first area assuming Sadhana and Nartano are on board with that. Want to start growing our own plants while the plastic kills the grasses and thistle. Planting next fall 2024, a mixture of native grasses and native perennials like lupine, yarrow etc.

Chicken run: New visions of planting current chicken run with blueberries, rhubarb, or other non-natives. Shrink the chicken run and re-position some of chicken run north or south of Eggplant? Chickens and blueberries can co-exist.

Question of how much labor is actually available for new projects while garden team is down in number.

Discussions:

Clear paths (guest parking known problem): Area near grape arbor and guest parking is overgrown. Revision whole area? Cherry and cedar are growing into one another. Ivy is an issue. Lots of history about that area; will invite Aditi to attend a Biogaian meeting and perhaps she would call interested people together to talk about solutions.

Hammer Head update: shrubs were cut back, one which has intense thorns (caltrops). Soil would have to be sieved before being usable in greenhouse. We have a

mechanized sifter, but will need thick gloves and shovels. Removing the plant itself? What would be the steps? Time, personnel, timing of dumpster, protective clothing. Needs leadership. Perhaps put on concerns at next general meeting.

Reseeding the Commons: Test plot? In parking lot until fall.

Goat shed: status & Update: can we reduce the amount of unused stuff in the shed and behind the shed? Piglets need to decide what is needed and may have more bandwidth now that planting is completed. Patricia/Brent willing to organize trip to dump/recycling.

Blackberries: next goat pen? Paul and interns may be able to provide labor.

New mower for LSC/Songaia? Needs to be identified and priced.

Heads up about geodesic dome idea: Marilyn Richardson in Monroe is getting rid of dome, talking about purchase for Journeys base camp, 16' across. Maybe site on old earthbag site? Would be additional gathering space/dry spot. If Journeys doesn't want it, would we? In cathedral? Level foundation is key, as well as drainage, and need for light.

Next meeting: 6/27

Facilitates: Helen

Scribe: Brian? Anita? Patricia?

Evaluation: Burned through business. Low attendance due to conflict with AI talk.