

August 2023 Biogaian Meeting

Facilitator: Brian

Scribe: Anita

In attendance: Miranda, Helen, Bonnie, Patricia, Julia, Joanna, Sylvan, Anita, Isabel, Brian, Eileen

Biogaian Agenda:

- **Water retention inspection report**

- From Paul: Has not heard from Snohomish County. Inclined to "Let a sleeping dog lie" "let sleeping goats lie". If she does call, a quick goat poop cleanout and swale trimming by the wetland is what we'd need to be ready for inspection.

- **Goat care in October**

- Brent will still be gone
- Sylvan: I talked to Brent when he was in New York and he said I'd need to talk with Biogaian about this: I would like to re-home the goats permanently. I know they've been used for blackberry control. I've contacted 3 rescue places and I haven't found one yet that will say yes. The goats are getting close to the end of their life (12-14 yrs). They're not in breeding condition or milkable, so it is not feasible to sell them. The last time they had any foot care was at least 5 years ago. I had been doing it but gave up because they had not had any training. They are challenging to work with. There is a little bit of money for goat care in the budget. I said I was ok with money toward the goats if they got appropriate medical care. The goats have been getting semi-regular dewormer and no hoof care. In the past Brent has been adamant that he does not want to get rid of the goats. But with the proposal that they go to a "goat retirement" shelter, he came around. I don't think they're getting humane care.
- Would we lose NRCS funding? Anita doesn't think so.
- Do we need them to help clear blackberries? There are multiple areas that they could be moved to still though.
- For now: Sylvan will keep looking at shelters. If we do want them to stay, we need someone to be the goat advocate. We could look at inviting new goats in the coming years, with budgets and plans made for care. Brian will organize a goat moving party for now. Interns will help.

- **Crestsong irrigation report**

- Helen: We've been trying something new with mixed results. When th timer was watering every 20 minutes in each of the 6 zones we had a lot of growth of grass and buttercup. We didn't see heat damage to the trees, they seem to get enough water. But there is a leak under rich's house that needs repair. This year, we are trying longer watering less frequently. Rich and Reuben set it up so that it can do an hour at a time. The pawpaw trees and dogwood look heat stressed, so we need to give them a little more than we have been. Helen has been watering those by hand from alpaca place, and trying to see when she needs to turn the

whole system on during dry stretches. The mowing people are coming every 2 weeks. They skipped one. Watering less gave us much less buttercup. It's watered on city water from rich's house, so it's expensive. How much longer will we need to water? We don't know, but those trees that are looking stressed are older. Let's revisit the watering plan during the fall budget season

- **Clean up around "Songaia" sign**
 - Who decides what gets trashed and what gets kept?
 - Fencing, trashcans, hoses, etc.
 - Anita will host work party to pull everything out and organize
 - Anita, Brian, Helen, Miranda will be the deciders about what to keep and what to get rid of.
- **Caltrops in dirt in hammerhead:**
 - spikes from plants need to be removed from gravel and soil.
 - Could we just sweep them up? Maybe needs raking?
 - We need to remove the trees, we need to let Chris know.
 - Eileen will talk with Chris about removing the trees.
 - We need to organize a work party
 - Eileen will head this up
- **Need for "dirt" in the spring potting season**
 - Parking lot
- **Blueberries south of greenhouse**
 - Aditi has taken this on. She's planning on planting blueberries and moving perennials from LSC in the fall.
- **Garden report: from interns!**
 - Tomatoes coming in, zukes slowing down, green beans looking good
 - Winter plants planted: chard, rutabaga, tatsoi, etc.
 - Clearing in hoopouses, weeding in zukes, no more beets
 - Lots of fruit tree harvest, walnuts, figs
 - Tending to the irrigation systems
 - Weeding in the keyhole
 - Wood chips for mulching aisles
 - Grown rabbits and other rodents in the garden
 - Compost going good
- **Report on trees under powerline**
 - Patricia: We should expect them anytime now. Let's pass it off to david to receive the power company because Patricia and Mary will be off-grid. Patricia will call power company to hook David up with them.

Sept 9/26

Facilitator: Anita

Scribe: Miranda

