**Biogaians Meeting Minutes**

**August 10, 2021**

Present: Anita, Reuben, West, Johnathan, Brent, Patricia, Laura, Brian, Helen, Lucas, Matt, Mary, Elizabeth

**Reports**

**Garden**Lots of produce for harvest; plums, tomatoes, cukes, basil, peppers, eggplants, zucchini, greens beans

and flowers galore.

Gardeners have been contending with rats and rabbits. The Rabbit round up was fun but did not succeed in sending the three rabbits packing. There will be ongoing work to shore up the rabbit fence and patch holes

**Bastyr/Songaia partnership**

Matt is working with Permaculture educators from Bastyr to investigate future collaboration. Matt will meet with them soon to discuss potential projects.

**Microshelter**

The micro-shelter is coming along nicely. Additional funds are needed for materials. Eileen, Matt and Anita are in the process of writing a Decision Board proposal. The proposal will go through the Biogaian committee for review. Biogaians approved an ask for $700 which will include a deck to connect the two shelters. There are some funds in this year's budget for intern housing. The general plan is to get the shelter ready for the rainy season and habitable by Fall. Further insulating & weather proofing will be completed down the line. Investigation will be done to see if the leak in the other micro shelter still needs repair.

**Orchard**

Mary encourages everyone to harvest plums! Many trees are ready for harvesting.

Brian got approval to plant a special family apple tree in one of the south hugelkultur mounds.

Brian is shopping for a hydraulic apple press!

**Plaza Landscaping**

Matt has met with the plaza committee to present designs as well as a plant list and proposed budget. The company that Matt works for has agreed to offer access to wholesale plant material. The cost of plant material is $893.00. Elizabeth offered to grow some plant material from seed. There is interest in obtaining larger plants as well. There may be some funds available from the Biogaian budget at the end of the year. Matt will organize and supervise work parties utilizing volunteer labor. Work will likely begin in the Fall.

**NRCS funds**

Anita has been pursuing funds from the Conservation Stewardship program of the National Resource Conservation organization of the USDA.  The group focuses on sustainable farming practices. Patricia and Brian have helped as well.

This was a long and challenging application process which included some complicated and creative legal and organizational challenges. The grant money will pay for all of the great things we are already doing and add one new project with additional funds.

We will be receiving *$4,000 per year* for the next five years! GO TEAM!

Because of the structure that was devised, the Garden To Table club will accept the checks.

The organization is looking to work with more small farms

so we will be a model to show the way in sustainable practices. A separate $2,000 has been awarded to establish a small forest "cultural" planting area.

**High Tunnel**

Anita has also applied to the NRCS for a high tunnel for the garden. A decision board proposal will be prepared to ask the community to provide funds for the purchase. The funds will then be reimbursed when the grant is very likely approved. Anita has details. Brent is also knowledgeable on this topic.

**Wood Chips on Lost Lake Road**

Delivery of wood chips by large trucks is being hampered by low branches along Lost Lake Road. Significant large branch pruning is necessary if we want to continue to use the Lost Lake site. Mary will organize this work with help from others. In the meantime, there will be some shifting of piles of Loo Poop and chips.

**Plant Amnesty Pruning workshop**

Mary reports that the Plant Amnesty organization is interested in doing a pruning workshop on our land on August 28th. Students will be in small groups and will utilize the plaza for eating and the downstairs common house restrooms. They will follow all community COVID guidelines. Matt and Mary will be learning alongside the students. The community will be asked to do clean-up at the pruning sites. Biogaians authorized payment of $450.00 to the organization.

**Intern Housing**

Brainstorming about future intern housing.  Future housing might include more housing for interns during the primary growing season as well as during the "shoulder seasons" in early Spring and into the Fall.

Some space has recently been opened up in the playroom which could potentially be a sleeping space for interns as well as a playroom.

The Journeys "stable" will need to be rebuilt and has the potential for use by interns in both programs. The stable has water and electricity.

Possible housing in what is now the pottery studio?

More brainstorming to come...

**UW Bothell Capstone Program**

Patricia, Brian and Anita will be having conversations with Layla Taylor at the  CBLR program about future collaboration.

**Compost**

Reuben and Lucas have prepared new signage for the compost bins near the goat shed. They have also been using a new method which is yielding fantastic results. The signage will clarify what is appropriate to add to the piles.

They are also working on plans to utilize paper towels and bokashi.

**Barn Fridges**

Journeys will only be using the refrigerator at the Journeys base camp throughout the near future.

**Parking lot**

NES Grape harvest

Garden Depot

**Next meeting: August 31, 7:15 (**regular 4th Tuesday meeting)

Facilitator: Laura

Scribe: Helen