

Biogaian Meeting Minutes 1/25/22

Facilitator: Ka

Notes: Patricia

Present: Ka, Patricia, Helen, Eileen, Mary, Anita, Reuben, West, Matt

Missing: Laura, Brian, Sylvan

Next meeting Feb. 22, 7:15-8:30 pm

Patricia will facilitate

Matt will scribe

Garden Update (Anita)

High Tunnel – in the Southeast quadrant there are orange flags that indicate where the high tunnel will be so gardeners can see where the concrete footings will need to be sunk. Exploring the possibility of hiring someone to do that work. Josh Hall told us of someone who put a high tunnel in at Little Roots Ranch in Stanwood so we can do a site visit to see how it was installed in their garden. We have an outline for the decision board for the community. We will know in April if the grant will be made. We are expecting 2 tunnels, 16 feet across and 56 feet long.

Seeds – we have been doing seed sorting, inventorying, and ordering

Ordering - amendments, etc. that will be needed for the spring/summer

Bokashi – Reuben has begun to organize the bokashi option for the composting

Burlap Sacks – more than 2/3s are plastic – hopefully we will be getting more soon

Intern Recruitment – is moving along – already have a couple of people filling in the form

Keyhole raspberries – (Helen)

There is a consensus to move the red raspberries from the keyhole to outside the garden for a lot of reasons. Still wondering where to put them, maybe individual home owners would like them...otherwise maybe just dump them. This includes thinking about the space inside the garden fence as prime real estate and to move some of the more resilient and pest immune things outside the garden.

Greenhouse next steps – the greenhouse is also prime real estate and there is thinking going on about how to make the greenhouse better organized and have more space available for all of the projects that would like space.

Tool Care – We need to keep thinking about where tools should be kept and how to move toward a garden depot. There is also a need to tidy up the Biogaian area in the barn.

Garden Gates – Paul will be back early in February and it will be important to work with him closely – what wood should we use, helping him get things together to remake the gates. The gates are in pretty bad shape. It would be helpful if there was someone who would take on the role of collaborating with him.

Micro-shelters – There is currently no plan in place for the completion during the winter. We may need Paul's help to do some of the more skilled part. Probably won't need a work party. Maybe a work party would be appropriate for the deck between the two micro-shelters. West is willing to take on the coordination of the building of the deck. The first micro-shelter needs to be checked out for the spring. E.g. the door on the a-frame needs to be shaved so that the door opens completely.

Electricity to the micro-shelters – This might be able to be part of the work party – Brian said that it is possible for us to make an outlet available to the micro-shelters.

Meadow up-date – Blackberry removal, brewing fugally dominate compost tea, plans to make more biochar, propagating – so much happening. We have sourced almost all of the plants we need. Purchased nearly half of them from Snohomish County Conservation Society.

Chainsaw work: Need to cut up and move the tree branch so that we can have more wood chips delivered. There are also several other chainsaw tasks that need to be done...the tree blocking the path to the micro-shelters, the cherry tree. Matt will take on making sure this happens.

Orchards – Mary: The pruning training session with Plant People NW and Barb Burrill. They worked on the large apple trees in the south orchard. The plant people want to keep coming. Yay! Mary is working on the smaller trees doing winter pruning. Will be unable to do much tree work in February because she is having eye surgery.

New Tools: The new tools are spectacular! It means that she doesn't have to get on a ladder nearly as often. She is keeping them on her back porch so that she can sterilize them, sharpen and keep track of them. If you want to use these tools please check with her.

The meadow team would like to **purchase a full-size broad fork**. We would be willing to purchase ½ of it with funds from the meadow project and ask the Biogaians to purchase the 2nd half. Anita will order it and Mary will pick it up the second week of February.

Bungee Cords – Is there a stash? If there are then Ka could return the ones she bought. Mary is the liaison from the Biogaians to the shop committee and will check on this too.

Espaliered tree – Ka would like the espaliered tree at the plaza crosswalk removed. Helen believes that the salal and other natives might be the bigger problem. They will look at it together tomorrow. There is also a native spirea that should probably be moved. Mary, Helen, Ka and maybe Matt will ponder the concern some more.

What went well? – Ka's facilitation and her camera worked, covered a lot of ground. West stepping up to organize the micro-shelter work party, Anita's photographs, Matt showed up! The plans for bokashi too. All the stuff on the budget is done.

What could be done better? – need more photos!, We missed Laura and Brian. More pink moustaches.