

✓ Welcome, planner@belmontnh.org

High schoolers, Legionnaires help to clear Tioga riverbank

By TIM CAMERATO | Jun 09, 2014

1



TIM CAMERATO/CITIZEN

BELMONT HIGH SCHOOL juniors and seniors, along with members of American Legion Post #58 and other town citizens, spent Monday afternoon clearing the Tioga River's banks of debris.

BELMONT — Belmont High School juniors, seniors, and members of the American Legion Post #58 spent their Monday afternoon clearing brush and trees from the side of the Tioga River.

Armed with chainsaws and other construction materials, the volunteers cleared a section of hill behind the Belmont Mill to make way for construction of a new pavilion.

BHS principal Dan Clary said a cleanup day was held in past years for seniors to make up time they

missed in school days.

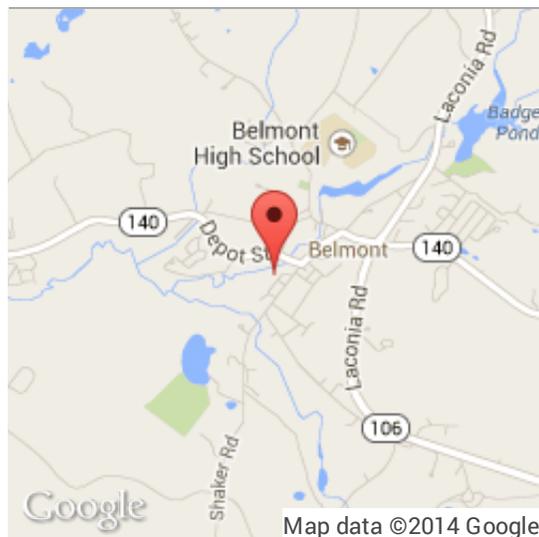
“This year, we didn't need to make up the day, so we asked them for their help, and they came out, and they helped us a lot,” Clary said.

He said about 15-20 seniors took part, along with a dozen juniors.

“They all contributed and it was a great job,” Clary said.

BHS student Courtney Pelletier said she came to give back to the community.

“We wanted to help out after everything they've done for us,” Pelletier said. “It's



nice to give back.”

Woodbury Fogg, a member of the Village Revitalization Committee, said the cleaning is a part of a long-term effort to beautify the village. He said the Board of Selectmen asked members four years ago to think of things they'd like to see done, such as creating Penstock Park.

“We planted a garden, we cleared it all down to the river so you can see river up there, put in a chain-link fence,” Fogg said.

He said they then held a charrette, or brainstorming session, with professional designers, who came up with the idea to build a pavilion.

“The seniors could use it for a picnic area, or anybody who wanted to have a picnic, and it could be a place for farmers' markets, or outdoors concerts, or we could use it during Old Home Day,” Fogg said.

Fogg said the old railroad bed across the river was donated by Dick Persons of Persons Concrete to use as overflow parking. The value of the land was then used as a match for a federal grant. He said the money from that and another grant gave them enough funds to buy the materials for the pavilion.

Fogg said they also bought a 160-foot-long covered pedestrian bridge from Dover.

“We bought that for \$1 ... we found \$1.38 in the bridge, so we made 38 cents,” Fogg said.

He said it was cut into six pieces and driven to the Belmont Public Works yard. One piece will be used to cross the river behind the mill, where the bridge that washed away in 1936 once stood. The others will span about 100 feet of the Tioga near Great Brook Village.

“It think it'll be another three years before we can get that done,” Fogg said.

After they finish clearing brush from the river banks, Fogg said, the pavilion will be built in summer or early fall. He said the students' help is very appreciated.

“It would take us weeks to do this all by ourselves,” Fogg said. “We're pleased at what we got done.”

<p>Graham & Graham, P.C. Certified Public Accountants Business Advisors & Management Consultants The Solution Group</p>	<p>Call Today in NH (603) 225-2944 or in VT (802) 885-5340 Laconia, NH (603) 527-8721 or Barre, VT (802) 356-2423</p>
--	--

Comments (0)

Staff Profile

<p>Tim Camerato Reporter 603-581-1962 Email Me</p>
--

Recent Stories by Tim Camerato

- **High schoolers, Legionnaires help to clear Tioga riverbank**
Jun 09, 2014
- **Gilford Top 10 leaving for diverse group of schools, majors**
Jun 07, 2014
- **Wine'ing Butcher expanding south**

Jun 06, 2014

- **Winnepesaukee Wine Festival draws those drinking for charity**

Jun 05, 2014

- **Mike Cryans files for another District 1 race**

Jun 05, 2014