

June 18. 2014 10:18PM

Belmont High students join Legion Post members in community project

BELMONT — When Belmont High School seniors joined members of the Charles Kilborn American Legion Post Monday in working on the pavilion next to the Belmont Mill, it was a wonderful sign for the veterans, said Woodbury Fogg, the deputy adjutant of Post 58.

“This wasn’t something the students had to do,” Fogg said.

“They freely volunteered to help out and worked hard on a hot, muggy and buggy afternoon.”

“Teens, a lady and men as old as 80 worked side by side, demonstrating real community involvement,” Fogg said.

Monday was the school’s Community Service Day. Legion members were joined by high school volunteers to clean up a large section of the slope along the river bank, continuing the work done by Belmont seniors on Community Service Days in past years.

The concept of the students, revitalization committee members and veterans working together was initiated by Principal Dan Clary.

“It gives students a sense of ownership in their community and helping to develop their understanding of the responsibilities, and rewards, of citizenship,” Fogg said.

The town’s public works department provided a wood chipper and two men.

The Revitalization Committee is proceeding with the construction of a pavilion next to the Belmont Mill. The long term objective is to develop a public facility for recreation and town events, Fogg said.



(/storyimage/UL/20140618/NEWS18/140618861/AR/0/AR-140618861.jpg?q=100)

Belmont High seniors Matt Leclair, MaryKate Russo and Courtney Pelletier work on the Belmont revitalization project on Monday. (COURTESY)

"This includes the pavilion, a trail and bridge across the Tioga and a recreational trail along the old railroad bed all the way out to South Road. As a key part of this project, the entire slope along the river bank needs to be brushed out and cleaned up to open the view to the Tioga River," he said.

Legionnaires said they were "extremely pleased they were with what (Clary) and his crew got done and how good it looks," he said.

"The area is clean, with a couple of green shrubs and some pines strategically remaining, and no slash or trash left. The Tioga River can now be seen from the top of the bank and the old stone tail race from the mill is visible for its entire length. This fits right in with the historical theme and the river view is actually quite scenic."

Fogg said several of the students said they wanted to give something back to their community.

"And they certainly did," a welcome sight for veterans involved in the project, he said.

dseufert@newstote.com