Lesley Soccer Team volunteer work day

Participants: Lesley University Womens Soccer Team
Date: August 20, 2015
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FAR volunteer leader: Bill Green ynotbgreen@comcast.net

Twenty five Lesley soccer team volunteers arrived by van around 2 PM. With the help of the co-captains the group was divided in four such that two of the groups worked together to clear, bag and pile knotweed from near the Moody Street entrance to the Blair Pond area. One of the other groups worked on widening the foot trail on the northwest side of the pond and was on the lookout for “threats” to the environment as it worked. The forth group was tasked with reviewing and reporting on the subject of invasive species, their definition, threats, and modes of outcompeting other more native and controlled plants. They were asked to consider the meaning of the “tragedy of the commons” in general and how it might apply to Alewife the Blair Pond area. After somewhat over an hour at work the groups convened in the shade and spoke of their accomplishments. The knotweed group had basically cut all standing knotweed away from the entrance and bagged and moved it to a common site inside the area. The path-widening group had cleared the path to a width of about 4 feet from the kiosk around to the east entrance to Blair Pond. Regarding threats to the area: there were comments about the effects of invasive vines growing in and bringing down trees; and the observation of the large spread of algae on the pond indicating likelihood of significant nitrogen pollution there. The didactic group reported to the assembled group on features of “invasive species” like their definition, character, threat to local environments and the need to be vigilant in their management and control. Respecting the “tragedy of the commons” there was a brief discussion of just what the “commons” are and of our human penchant, as individuals, to take more of their benefits for oneself, not allowing robust sustainability for all and for future generations.

A complicating factor on this outing was that the presence of heavy machinery in the reservation area working on installing new a new railroad bed and tracks just to the north of the Blair Pond reservation area.