

STRAFFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

October 24, 2017

Present at 7 p.m. at the Morrill Education Center were SCC Members: Kate Root, Steve Faccio, Mike Hebb, Chuck Sherman, Dave Paganelli and Steve Willbanks, Chair.

(Not present: J.T. Horn, Jared Janisch, Tim McCormick.)

Minutes for the 9/26/'17 meeting were approved.

Information as to lead-time for ordering and installing the bench will be obtained. There is a question as to whether it can be installed before winter. The inscription will read: *John T. Hemenway (1923-2016)/Living on in Forest Time*. Steve agreed to contact the Hemenway family regarding plans for the bench.

Mike outlined a proposal to facilitate public access to the Whitcomb Hill Overlook. This would include improving the turnaround at the end of the Class 4 road and signage prohibiting motorized vehicles beyond that point. He will relay the proposal to the Selectboard.

The new Town Plan, recently approved by the Selectboard, was discussed. There were questions about whether it adequately addressed development in the more rural and environmentally sensitive areas of Strafford and to what extent the SCC's Open Space Plan (OSP) had been referenced in the Town Plan, which still needs approval by the Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission before it goes into effect. It was generally agreed that the SCC members will familiarize themselves with the Open Space Plan and before the next meeting will review the language in the new Town Plan's chapters on Natural Resources and Land Use in light of the OSP.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 28th.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Willbanks