

STRAFFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

June 27, 2017

MINUTES

Present at the Morrill Education Building at 7 p.m. were commission members: Kate Root, Jared Jenisch, Steve Faccio, Dave Paganelli, and Steve Willbanks, Chair.

- It was moved and seconded that last month's minutes be accepted
- Update on the John Hemenway memorial bench: The selectboard has given permission for a bench in John's memory to be placed on the green. Kate spoke with several companies and Swenson Granite in Barre was the cheapest; it would come to roughly \$1000 for a four foot bench with an engraving on the front edge; this cost would include setting the bench. Funding might be procured for the bench by posting it in the Historical Society newsletter in addition to the town listserv. Kate suggested a dedication ceremony when the bench is in place.
- Steve noted that there will be frequent conflicts between SCC meetings and the Tuesday concerts on the town green over the course of the summer; all present agreed to change the regular starting time for summer meetings to 7:30.
- Trails: attendance for the National Trail Day hike on the cross-town trail was 1. There have been two orchid walks to view the Showy Lady's-slipper orchids in the Town Forest: the first was lead by Beth S. and 8 attended; Jared led the second and there were 7 people along.
- Wetlands: Kate and Jared have lead five wetland visits so far this season; more are planned for later in the summer.

The meeting was followed by a presentation, open to the public, by Steve Faccio on a 25-year study by the Vermont Center for Ecostudies on changing forest bird populations in the state over the last quarter century, and the possible causes of these changes. The study, *2017 The Status of Vermont Forest Birds: A Quarter Century of Monitoring*, can be found on the Vermont Center for Ecostudies website at www.vtechostudies.org. Approximately 30 people attended the lecture.

Respectfully submitted,
Jared Jenisch, Recording Secretary