Agenda Summary
August 26, 2026

Agenda Item No. A-4
Palisades Trail Bench Offer Letter

Summary: Enclosed please find an offer from Stowe Trails Partnership to donate a bench to the newly opened Palisades Trail in Cady Hill Forest. STP will construct and maintain the bench, in accordance with the recommendation from the Conservation Commission and within the scope of the Cady Hill Forest Management Plan.

The bench would be located in Cady Hill proximate to the Stowe Village Inn on what was formerly known as the Stowe Village Connector Trail. The Conservation Commission approved the recommendation of the bench at their 8/10 meeting.

Town Plan Impact: Town Plan Recreation Task #5, "Enhance recreational trails on town-owned land, including Cady Hill Forest, Sterling Forest, Mayo Farm, Memorial Park and Sunset Rock, to include signage, grooming, as allowed by management plans, and ongoing maintenance."

Fiscal Impact: N/A

Recommendation: Move to accept the bench donation with the understanding that Stowe Trails Partnership will construct and maintain the bench, and that the Town may relocate, remove, or replace it as its sole discretion.

Stowe Trails Partnership

August 13, 2026

Town of Stowe

To whom it may concern,

I am pleased to write this as an official offer letter on behalf of Stowe Trails Partnership (STP), informing the Town of Stowe that STP will donate a bench to the newly opened Palisades trail in Cady Hill Forest. STP will construct and maintain the bench, in accordance with the recommendation from the Conservation Commission and within the scope of the Cady Hill Forest Management Plan.

To accept the offer for this donation, please sign and send this document in an email of confirmation to Stowe Trails Partnership's Trail Manager, Kelsie Sibbald, kelsie@stowetrails.org.

Signature Date

Sincerely,

Kelsie Sibbald

Kelsie Sibbald
Trail Manager, Stowe Trails Partnership

Stowe
Conservation Commission

August 12, 2026

Dear Selectboard:

The Conservation Commission is writing to express its full support for, and recommend approval of, the proposed installation of a bench along the Stowe Village Connector/ Palisades Trail within Management Area #2 of Cady Hill Forest.

The proposed bench is approximately five feet in length and features a log-style design. It will provide trail users with a place to rest while enjoying the scenic views along the trail. Trail-based recreation is a primary objective of Management Area #2.

Cady Hill Forest was conserved in perpetuity by the Town in 2012 and is subject to a conservation easement held jointly by the Stowe Land Trust ("SLT") and the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board ("VHCB"). One of the primary purposes of conserving the property was to provide for perpetual, low-impact, non-commercial, and non-motorized public outdoor recreation.

The Conservation Commission is responsible for stewardship of the Town's conserved properties, including Cady Hill Forest, and for making land management recommendations to the Selectboard. Following its review, the Commission supports the proposed bench and recommends that the Selectboard approve its donation and installation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Catherine Gott

Catherine Gott, Chair
Conservation Commission