

Greetings Hannah,

Wright Preston has spoken with me about the next Andrews Community Forest Committee. He asked if I'd be willing to serve and I indicated that I'd like to be considered for a position.

Briefly, my background includes 26 years as a banker in Burlington and Montpelier, mostly in Commercial Lending and Credit. I left banking in 1997 when I was appointed by Governor Dean to Chair the Vermont Environmental Board, a position I held for five years. The Environmental Board administered the Act 250 program and acted as an appellate body for decisions made by the nine District Commissions in the state.

When Howard Dean left office, I took a position at the Vermont Land Trust as a paralegal. I drafted legal documents and managed projects from the Purchase and Sale Agreement stage through closing. I worked closely with Project Counsel, Project Directors, Stewardship staff, as well as title attorneys, landowner attorneys, appraisers, VHCB staff, and NRCS staff. You probably know Bob Heiser. I think he would speak to the quality and quantity of the work I produced while at Vermont Land Trust.

I also served as a member of the Vermont Environmental Board for four years before becoming Chair and more recently I served as Vice Chair of the District #4 Environmental Commission from 2011 to 2017. I've also served on the Richmond Planning Commission and I'm a member of the Richmond Land Trust.

I have been retired for four years. I have the time to devote to serving on the Andrews Community Forest Committee, and the interest. (I'd be remiss if I didn't mention that my daughter is due to have twins this spring and I expect to help her as needed. I can't say right now how much time that will entail but monthly meetings should not be a problem.)

From my past experience, particularly on the Environmental Board and District Environmental Commission, I have considerable experience listening to different points of view, keeping an open mind, and making informed decisions. We always based our decisions on the credible evidence presented and the law and not on our own particular biases. I understand that there may be different opinions on how the Andrews Community Forest should be used. I would not come to the position advocating for any particular use.

My husband and I have a lovely piece of wooded land in the Northeast Kingdom of Richmond. We value the forest for its wildlife and recreational uses. We also heat our home with wood from our land.

If you need anything more from me, please let me know. I'm honored that Wright approached me for a possible position.

Thank you.  
Marcy Harding