

December 28, 2018

Judy Rosovsky
Chair, Richmond Conservation Commission
P.O. Box 285
Richmond, VT 05477

Dear Judy,

I would like very much to transition from being on the Town Forest Steering Committee to a position on the Andrews Community Forest Management Committee as a representative for the Richmond Conservation Commission. Now that a town forest management plan is in place, there is much work to be done that is both of interest to me and suits my background and experience. Furthermore, I would like to provide continuity between the Steering Committee and the Management Committee to ensure that the progress made in striking a balance between conservation and recreation will not have to be re-forged.

I've lived in Richmond since 2005, where I own a small parcel of land about 2 miles from the town center with a small orchard and a forest that I manage as wildlife habitat and part of a recreational trail network. I love being part of a town with such a wealth of natural spaces and a community with strong interest in conservation and recreation. I work as a scientist and I'm well-aware of the issues of climate change and biodiversity loss. These are huge issues that could deprive future generations of the natural wealth that we now enjoy, so it has been gratifying working with the community to help create lands protected as a town forest. Now we have a resource that we not only can enjoy through recreation, but that one that we can manage as a reservoir of species and as a classroom that may teach us how to navigate the challenges facing the natural world.

I'm very excited by the potential for citizen science projects in the town forest. There are a number of possibilities, including:

- conducting biological surveys to set baselines for the monitoring of insect, bird or other wildlife and plant populations
- setting up portable weather stations to gather windspeed, precipitation and temperature readings at different locations both above and below the forest canopy.
- monitoring the impacts of trail development.

Such projects could be done with Richmond school kids, UVM student groups, Master Naturalists, or motivated community members. I would really enjoy every step in such work, from study design, grant-writing, finding partners and participants and presenting the results to the public.

The Town Forest Management Plan is designed to be a living document. I'll be very interested to see how public sentiment evolves as visitorship to the town forest increases. Undoubtedly there will be challenges to the priorities and processes laid out in the management plan, so I'll look forward to helping mediate discussions so that representing the general interests of the community remains our central priority.

Sincerely,



T. Guy Roberts, PhD