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Josh Arneson, Town Manager  
Richmond, VT

Dear Josh,

Please accept my letter of interest to be on the Andrews Community Forest Committee. I have a background in resource management and a history of managing public lands for the citizens of Vermont. I would be grateful to serve my community in this capacity.

For nearly eight years, I have worked for the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR) as Parks Regional Manager of the Northwest Region. I manage a complex mixture of developed parks, many with conservation easements, sensitive resources and high quality recreational assets. Prior to that, I managed municipal parks for the City of Burlington for nine seasons. I currently serve of the Essex District Stewardship Team, a team of professionals from the Agency of Natural Resources who are responsible for collectively making management decisions for state lands. I also serve on FPR's Recreation Management team, which has focused on recreational capacity, development and partnerships across the state.

Perhaps my greatest strength is relationship building. In my current position with FPR, I have partnered with the Vermont Land Trust, Bolton Valley Resort, the South Hero Land Trust, the Lake Champlain Land Trust, VHCB and the Lake Champlain Committee, to name but a few. I have also overseen or participated in park development, master planning and long range management planning. I work with foresters, trail builders and trail based organizations, including Catamount Trail, GMC and the VYCC. I am also currently chair of the Vermont Conference on Recreation.

Admittedly, I'm not a scientist of any natural discipline, though my career has provided me an extensive education on how humans interact with the physical landscape and with each other while using it. I believe in a balanced, common sense approach to managing public lands. I don't represent any particular interest group in town and my motivation for being involved is simple: I want to serve my community and help make reasonable land management decisions for this parcel. As my career trajectory has moved upward, my boots have become more firmly planted in the office; this opportunity could be a great chance to get my boots back on the ground.

Thank you for this opportunity and best of luck in selecting a candidate.

Sincerely,

Rob Peterson