

January 3, 2019

Sherry Smecker Winnie  
Grant Program Manager  
Recreational Trails Program  
Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation

Dear RTP Review Committee,

As Chair of the Richmond Selectboard I would like to express my support for Richmond's application to the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) to build a multi-use trail in our new Andrews Community Forest. This proposal will help our town satisfy our community's strong interest in accessing our town forest for recreation, conservation and education, in particular as a place for kids and seniors to walk and hike.

Over the past year the Town Forest Steering Committee has hosted several well-attended community meetings at which they have gotten great feedback calling for the development of a multi-use recreational trails network. If funded, our RTP proposal will lead to the development of what I'm sure will be a very popular trail, given that Richmond's other, more challenging hiking trails draw visitors from all of Chittenden Co. and beyond.

Building this first formal trail into the town forest will be a catalyst for further trail development. Our proposal is to build a 'gateway' trail designed to last for years of service and to become a jumping off point for new trails that will reach deeper into the town forest and provide connectivity to trails on adjoining lands.

Finally, this proposal fits the priorities of Richmond's town plan by helping to meet the interests of our very active, conservation and recreationally inclined population. We look forward to developing a recreational opportunity for the general public that will be appreciated by visitors from across the region.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

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Bard Hill  
Richmond, VT Selectboard Chair