



Josh Arneson <jarneson@richmondvt.gov>

Application for Andrews Community Forest Committee

1 message

Nick Neverisky <nickneverisky@gmail.com>

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To: richmondtownforest@gmail.com, jarneson@richmondvt.gov

I'm writing to express my interest in serving on the Andrews Community Forest Committee. I chose to live in Richmond in no small part due to the breadth of natural spaces (such as Andrews Community Forest) that are readily accessible to members of this community. I would be very glad to support the management of the Community Forest for the benefit of all community members as a member of the Andrews Community Forest Committee.

I've dedicated my career to working in the space where human behavior and natural systems interact. That interface is a rich environment that, with intentional management, can yield a multitude of benefits. Personally, I experience these benefits as an amateur naturalist, an outdoor athlete, and a hunter and fisherman. Professionally, I've worked to promote positive outcomes where humans and nature interact as an outdoor educator, as a community engagement professional, and currently as an applied social scientist working primarily to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by transforming the ways in which humans generate, access, and use energy.

My strengths as a member of the Andrews Forest Committee would come from my rich experience developing strategies to engage public stakeholders. I have done work in this vein in environmental contexts including energy use, street tree management, recreation, and stormwater runoff. I would be very pleased to leverage this experience to support the management of Andrews Community Forest. Depending on the needs of the Committee, this could involve projects such as leading public comment efforts, facilitating co-development of management plans, or developing systematic methods for ensuring that the voices of all stakeholders are represented in the ongoing management of this shared resource. You can find details on my professional experience in stakeholder engagement, social science research, and environmental behavior change in the attached resume.

My wife Caitlin Littlefield serves on the Andrews Community Forest Committee. Although we are members of the same household, she and I bring very different skill sets to the projects on which we work. I would be very glad to participate in the management of this wonderful shared resource if the Committee determines that my community engagement related skills would be useful.

Nick

 **Nick Neverisky resume.pdf**
184K

Nick Neverisky

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SUMMARY

- M.S. Human Dimensions of Natural Resource Management
- Leveraging social science research to support decision making
- Researching environmentally-related attitudes using survey, interview, and focus group methodologies
- Stakeholder engagement and facilitation

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Consumer Insights Manager – VEIC, Winooski, VT 2018 – Present

Leading stakeholder research for energy efficiency utilities in Vermont (Efficiency Vermont), Ohio (Efficiency Smart), and Washington DC (DC Sustainable Energy Utility). Conducting research for other clients on an ad hoc basis. Selected projects include:

- Annual surveys monitoring Vermonters' attitudes related to energy conservation.
- Interviews with homeowners to assess impact of high-resolution energy use data on energy-related behaviors.
- Advising on the design of behavior change programs targeting residential energy use.

Consultant, Customer Experience Team – EMI Consulting, Seattle, WA 2017 – 2018

Customer experience research on behalf of major utilities. Selected projects include:

- Using ethnographic methods to identify patterns of user interactions with smart thermostats.
- Evaluating energy efficiency programs via in-depth interviews.
- Facilitated logic modeling workshops with utility staff members to identify program strengths and vulnerabilities.

Research Fellow - Natural Capital Project, Seattle, WA 2015 – 2017

Researching stakeholder attitudes and behaviors; integrating science into decision making processes.

- Modeled park visitation patterns using intercept surveys, visitor counts, and georeferenced social media data.
- Co-authored comprehensive review and synthesis of urban ecosystem services. Emphasizing how socio-cultural context affects use of ecosystem services. Published in *Nature Sustainability*.
- Reviewer for scientific journal *Ecology and Society* and the U.S. Forest Service.

Intern – Urban Forestry group, Seattle Dept. of Transportation, Seattle, WA 2016

Leveraged stakeholder research to improve policy compliance and internal efficiency related to street tree management

- Used insights from survey research and key-informant interviews to improve stakeholder engagement strategies and optimize internal permitting processes.
- Outputs included: developing training workshops, creating reference materials (e.g., guidelines and checklists), and modifying permit documentation to improve usability and compliance.

Project Associate - Triangle Associates, Seattle, WA 2013 – 2016

Outreach and engagement with stakeholders on environmental topics. Selected projects included:

- Consulted with King County school districts providing technical assistance for energy efficiency, water conservation, and waste diversion.
- Supported National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements via social marketing campaigns about watershed impacts of car washing and fluid leaks on behalf of the cities of Bellevue, Redmond, and Kirkland.

Program Director - Community Sailing Center, Burlington, VT 2011 – 2013

Managed programs delivering environmental science and outdoor education to diverse audiences.

- Managed annual program budget and contracts. Supervised 10 staff members in addition to volunteers and interns.
- Programs engaged diverse stakeholders in environmental stewardship and outdoor recreation. Included citizen science initiatives in partnership with Vermont Dept. of Ecology and Lake Champlain Basin Program, fee-for-service youth and adult recreation programs, and community engagement and science education programs in partnership with non-profits and public entities.

Instructor - Community Sailing Center, Burlington, VT 2010

Led environmental stewardship and outdoor recreation programs.

Climate Change Educator – North Cascades Institute, WA 2009

Led pilot year of youth climate change and environmental science program.

Instructor – San Francisco Maritime National Park Association, CA 2007-2009

Led programs connecting urban residents with outdoor recreation opportunities and natural history.

EDUCATION

M.S. Human Dimensions of Natural Resource Management 2017

University of Washington, Seattle, WA

- Self-designed research thesis: *“Motivational Goals of Seattle Homeowners Related to Their Properties: Implications for Ecosystem Service Assessments and Behavioral Appeals.”* Leveraged insights from in-depth interviews with homeowners to develop targeted persuasive messaging strategies to promote pro-environmental property management behaviors.
- Coursework and skills include: environmental and behavioral economics, environmental policy, experimental design, statistical analysis, qualitative analysis, social psychology, and stakeholder engagement methodologies.

B.A. Liberal Arts 2007

Hampshire College, Amherst, MA

- Self-designed concentration in narrative theory, education, and physical science.
- Coursework included: physics, biology, education, and narrative theory.