



Josh Arneson <jarneson@richmondvt.gov>

CRF application approved to send to SB

1 message

Rosovsky, Judy <Judy.Rosovsky@vermont.gov>
To: "Arneson, Joshua" <jarneson@richmondvt.gov>

Tue, Feb 9, 2021 at 9:27 PM

Hi Josh,

The Richmond Conservation Commission reviewed the attached proposal and voted unanimously to approve the following motion:

Motion CRF Proposal Phase 2 Trail Development Andrews Town Forest:

"The Richmond Conservation Commission (RCC) enthusiastically recommends approval of the proposal from the Andrews Community Forest Management Committee, dated January 2021, requesting up to \$2,000 in Conservation Reserve Funds to pursue Phase-2 of trail development, to sunset three years from date of approval.

In doing so, RCC recognizes:

- Concordance of the proposed trails work with the Forest Management Plan;
- A phase -2 development plan in accordance with development of an ecologically sound trail network;
- Responsiveness to CRF priorities most particularly relating to improving recreational value and opportunities and enhanced access to experience significant natural resources in an ecologically sound way;
- Use of Vermont based consultants with established credentials (Arrowwood, Sinuosity);
- Significant cost share with regard to projected overall project costs (\$12,000)."

I realize that things are tight with the upcoming town meeting but the ACF is trying to get this project finished by this May, and would like to move forward as soon as possible.

Many thanks,

Judy Rosovsky

2/10/2021

Town of Richmond VT Mail - CRF application approved to send to SB

State Entomologist

State Plant Regulatory Official

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she/her pronouns

COVID-19 Updates and Resources Here

 **2021_CRF funds request - Phase 2.docx.pdf**
149K

Richmond Conservation Reserve Fund Application

Town of Richmond Andrews Community Forest Phase 2 Ecological Review & Trail Design

Submitted by: Andrews Community Forest Management
Committee January 2021

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Project Summary

Since 2018, the Town of Richmond has owned a 428 +/- acre parcel along US Route 2, bordering Maple Wind Farm, VYCC, Prelco, and other properties. Together, these and other abutting properties amount to thousands of acres of conserved forest.

While conservation was the driving purpose behind the federal grants that created the bulk of the funding, recreation is also a stated purpose for the property. While there are some logging roads, the VAST Trail, and utility easements, there exists only 1 trail. During the development of the management plan, a series of trails were mapped to provide access to the public to some of the more interesting parts of the forest, while avoiding the sensitive ecological zones. The ACF Committee would like to begin Phase 2 which is designing the trail network while making sure all of the trails would be ecologically sound. We have hired two contractors to work together to make this happen. Arrowwood Environmental will be doing an ecological study while Sinuosity Trails will be in charge of designing a ecological trail network for the forest. We have acquired some other funding, but are still in need of funds to complete this project. To that end, the Andrews Community Forest Management Committee is applying to the Richmond Conservation Reserve Fund for an amount not to exceed \$2,000.

Funding Request

The ACF Committee requests funds not to exceed \$2,000 for the sole use of developing an ecological trail design. The bid awarded was for \$12,000. Below is the breakdown of funding.

- \$2,500 - Vermont Mountain Biking Association trail design grant (*awarded*)
- \$2,500 - Vermont Mountain Biking Association naming grant by Stowe retailer Ranch Camp (*awarded*)
- \$5,000 - ACF logging revenue
- \$2,000 - Richmond's Conservation Reserve Fund

Property Description

In 2018 the town purchased roughly 428 acres of forest that was formerly part of a much larger farm parcel, most recently owned by the Andrews family for many years. This property is located on US Route 2 (East Main Street) next to Maple Wind Farm, just west of the VYCC property. Prior to this acquisition, the farm had been subdivided with the bulk of the farm, including the barn, going to Maple Wind Farm with the help of the Vermont Land Trust. Through continued negotiations, VLT was able to broker a deal and obtain the financing through several grants (including Conservation Reserve Fund) and other contributions to allow the Town of Richmond to purchase the forest for ecological and recreational purposes, with no direct cost to the taxpayers. This was a great gift to the Town, and significant planning, such as ecological assessments by various groups (Vermont Land Trust & Arrowwood Environmental) have been undertaken to approve a Management Plan,

Recreation Plan, and Forest Plan with the help of the SE Group and Ethan Tapper, Chittenden County Forester.

The property has been timbered in phases before and was at one time mostly clear of trees. Several ecologically sensitive areas remain and are under the strict protection of the easements held by VLT and VHCB. However, trails are allowed and encouraged, as long as they don't interfere with the ecologically sensitive areas.

Qualifications for a CRF Grant

General Criteria Matched

The parcel's attributes align with numerous criteria used to weigh a proposal's qualifications for CRF funding, however, the purposes of this application are to obtain funding to support ecological trail development.

A2. Will yield a clear, sustainable benefit to Richmond Residents in the form of permanently improving recreational values.

This ecological trail development project will provide permanent access to the interior of the property to allow the general public the enjoyment of a trail in a natural setting.

A4. Will protect, enhance and provide public access to a natural resource or recreation area.

This ecological trail development project will allow more access to the preserved forest, allowing recreational and educational activities to take place.

B7. Supports low-cost outdoor recreational activities such as hiking.

This project will develop a trail for hiking at a fairly low cost as an entry-level trail to the new forest.

CRF Specific Criteria Matched

In addition to meeting the General Criteria for CRF support, the project aligns with the CRF Policy Document's criteria for Recreation under other uses:

IV D Other Uses

Recreation Criteria: Recreation and trail development on Town Owned Lands when in compliance with Management Plans. This project matches this criteria perfectly, as this is

for building a new trail on Town-owned land, and is in accordance with the Andrews Forest Management Plan and VLT easement allowances.

Project Schedule (From Arrowwood/Sinuosity Bid)

Task	Performance Measure/Task	Deliverable	Timeframe
1	Ecological Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive Resource Map 	February- April 2021
2	Trail Design and Flagging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conceptual Trail Design • Corridor Flagging 	March-May 2021
3	Public Walks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Public Walks 	April-May 2021
4	Report and Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary Report • Poster • Presentation • Pictures • GIS Data 	May 2021

Project Partners

The Town of Richmond, Arrowwood Environment, Sinuosity Designs, Richmond Mountain Trails, Vermont Mountain Bike Association, Ranch Camp.

Long-Term Plans

The Town of Richmond will continue to own and manage the property through the Andrews Community Forest Management Committee. The uses for the property will continue to be passive recreation, ecological trail development, forest management, ecological conservation, and education.

Easement Holders

The Vermont Land Trust and Vermont Housing and Conservation Board are both beneficiaries of an easement that controls the use and development of the property. A big part of that control requires the consultation of an ecologist on all trail activities. Attached is

an opinion from VLT's ecologist that the Phase 1 Lower Trail fits within the conservation easement's purpose and is located away from sensitive ecological zones.

Appendix - Arrowwood/Sinuosity Bid