To the ACFC Committee:

As your new team comes together, we respectfully offer these suggestions for guiding Committee processes to ensure widespread, well-founded community support and positive outcomes for the ACF.

1. ***Recognize the common ground you share with members of the community.*** Build a foundation of mutual trust and respect around goals such as conserving the ACF’s resources and expanding opportunities for the public to connect with Nature.

2. ***Reach out to broaden participation of the ACF’s many stakeholders in the ACF’s future.*** Our community and the Forest will benefit from the ACFC maintaining a welcoming and inclusive tone that promotes public involvement.

3. ***Engage with community members*** through meaningful discussions and collaborative problem-solving, tapping into the wealth of knowledge and ideas readily available to the ACFC. Provide adequate time (i.e., more than 5 minutes public comment periods) during meetings for public input.

4. ***Involve outside experts in public discussions.*** Allow the Committee *and* the public to benefit from external knowledge by avoiding private contacts and filtering inputs. Enable the public to question and learn from these experts as well. Where appropriate, give experts a direct role in processes, such as finding a way through contentious issues with the help of specialists in facilitating public engagement.

5. ***Explore new ways to keep the public informed.*** Share the full complement of maps, reports, letters, Zoom recordings and other material about the ACF and Committee processes through the Town web pages. (See example of an information repository https://infoacf.wordpress.com?) Provide clear, objective summaries of documents such as the Management Plan revision to enable public engagement.

 6. ***Embrace change.*** Our understanding of the challenges and needs of human and wild communities alike continues to grow. Stay abreast of those changes, keep pace with evolving knowledge and continually assess past decisions for their relevance to current situations and trends. Incorporate emerging science and best practices for minimizing recreation and other impacts into Management and Trail Planning, Monitoring and Stewardship.

Respectfully, The Friends of the Forest