

ANDREWS COMMUNITY FOREST COMMITTEE

Committee minutes for August 25, 2025, 6:16 pm to 8:50pm meeting

(Note: The ACFC was unable to get the public Zoom function to work during the meeting.)

Roll call and confirm quorum.

Committee Members Present: Sam Pratt (Meeting Co-chair), Ian Stokes (Co-chair), Brad Elliott, Wright Preston, Sonya Mastersen, Jim Cochran, Dan Wolfson, and Julian Portilla

Members absent: zero

Public, in person: Bruce Hennessey (Maple Wind Farm) and Merrick Gillies (Richmond Mountain Trails)

No other members of the public were present.

Minute taker: Wright Preston

Timekeeper: Sam Pratt

The ACFC minutes of 7/28/25 and 8/18/25 were reviewed and approved. Motion made by Jimmy, seconded by Sonya, approved unanimously.

6:19PM. Bruce introduced Merrick, and they shared with the ACFC the new public multiuse trails that have been designed and installed on the north forest and meadow property of Maple Wind Farm, adjoining the ACF.. One trail ties into the ACF trail, currently called the old eastern VAST Trail. Public parking for use of these trails will be at Maple Wind Farm on Rte. 2, with some overflow allowed at the ACF parking lot. This new Maple Wind set of trails is considered to be low impact. It was stated that these trails are an example of Agri- Tourism. The committee with Bruce and Merrick talked a little about the need for a board walk for the wet section of the eastern old VAST Trail. The boardwalk might be installed in the woods, adjoining and north of the old Vast Trail. It was stated that VYCC allows some mtn bike trail use but does not promote it. Someone suggested it is worth visiting with the ACF neighbors to the west to see about a public trail connection to the Valley View Road.

Bruce indicated that he would be pleased to assist in trail maintenance at the ACF. He also indicated that he felt that Merrick put in about 1,000 hours of trail work, all by hand, for the new Maple Wind Farm trails.

The committee next discussed electing new co-chairs or a chair and vice chair for the next year. Sam agreed to be co-chair and oversee the meetings, and Brad would be co-chair

and handle administrative and communication matters. Jim made the motion to support Sam and Brad as co-chairs, and it was seconded by Julian. The vote was 8 yes, zero no's.

The committee issued a big THANK YOU to Ian for all of his work over the last year, plus!

7:00PM: The committee then discussed the RFP process for copying editing and reviewing of the draft '25 ACF Management Plan. Ian said it could take up to 34 weeks. We agreed to establish a committee picked, small working group of three, to include Brad, Sonya and Ian. Jim asked if we could self copy edit with a small group. We then discussed using AI. We agreed the working group should report back to the committee with their initial thoughts on the RFP and how best to proceed with the copy editor work. We discussed having the working group try to compress the RFP timeframe from 34 weeks to 16 weeks.

7:30 -8:30. The committee then worked on live revisions to the management plan with Sam sharing his revisions on the screen. (Please note: We still did not have the Zoom function running, so the public could not see and review our committee edits.)

Wright and Jim agreed to brush hog the lower meadow in September.

It was agreed that Jim, Brad and Sam would work further on the Trail Development Draft.

The meeting ended at 8:50PM. Brad motioned to adjourn, seconded by Jim. All voted in favor to adjourn.