

Andrews Community Forest Committee

Monday October 13th, 2025, 6-8:30 PM

In-person: Jim Cochran, Julian Portilla, Sam Pratt, Wright Preston, Dan Wolfson

Remote: Brad Elliott, Ian Stokes

Public: Ian Bender (remote)

Minutes: Sam Pratt

Timekeeper: Wright Preston

6:06 p.m. - General Committee Business

Meeting minutes from 09/22/25 approved unanimously.

Sam noted that a progress update was sent to the selectboard in accordance with the last meeting's discussion. ACFC was not requested to present or discuss the current course of action before the selectboard at this time.

6:09 p.m. - Land Acknowledgement

Sam read excerpts from the land acknowledgement section of the draft management plan, noting that October 13th is Indigenous Peoples' Day.

6:15 p.m. - Revisions of Management Plan

Most of the discussion is reflected in updates to the draft "B6 Recreation" section. One of the main topics was trail planning and timing. The committee discussed when new trails should be considered—whether at any time or on a set schedule, such as following updates to the management plan. Members agreed that the goal is to avoid piecemeal trail development. After a trail is installed, the forest should be given time to rest and respond before additional trail proposals are considered. This approach does not constitute a moratorium on trails; the committee may still review new proposals once the management plan draft is complete. Dan volunteered to revise his comments to reflect this discussion for review at the next meeting.

The committee also discussed mechanized and other non-pedestrian trail uses, including biking, horseback riding, and snowmobiling. It was decided not to add specific language to either permit or prohibit horseback and snowmobile uses at this time, since the easement allows them only if

they are explicitly included in the management plan. The committee remains open to considering these uses in the future.

In addition, the committee agreed that any applicant proposing a new trail should provide a preliminary map to help streamline the review process and respect everyone's time. Members noted that a future meeting will be needed to determine the map's specific requirements— such as what information it should include, who prepares it, how features are verified, and whether it should be geospatially enabled.

Finally, the committee discussed qualifications for trail designers and ecologists. It was agreed that the language regarding trail designers should be broadened to allow for more community involvement and flexibility, rather than requiring that designers be hired professionals. Ecologists involved in the process should be qualified, though the committee has not yet defined what specific qualifications are required. Brad volunteered to research this topic and present recommendations at the next meeting.

8:25 p.m. - Closure

Committee confirmed the future meeting at ACFC at 3pm on Wednesday, 10/15, as well as the next two regular meetings on 10/27 and 11/10, both from 6-8:30pm.