

Indigenous Land Acknowledgment from draft MP. I suggest to read the two sections as bolded)

Andrews Community Forest is located within Ndakinna (in-DAH-kee-NAH), the homeland of the Western Abenaki people, who have a unique connection to this land and have been its traditional stewards for millennia. For many generations before the European colonists arrived, the Abenaki people harvested animals, nuts, plants, berries, fiber, and timber in these forests, without degrading their ecological health.

The Indigenous people who preceded the colonists created an extensive system of trails throughout the Green Mountains that attest to the extended relationships between the Abenaki people and other tribes, who also used these forests, and who took refuge here as the settlers drove them from their homes. The Town of Richmond acknowledges that we have access to this land because it was taken without consent and that our ability to make decisions about its management rests on this historic injustice. **The Andrews Community Forest Committee therefore acknowledges the Abenaki people's rights to use this land in perpetuity and welcomes the Abenaki people as partners in our forest management. We aim to honor and respect the Abenaki people through responsible forest management and sustainable land use.**

We will strive to incorporate Traditional Ecological Knowledge into our management practices to foster a healthy forest community and to restore a healthy balance between human needs and the needs of the nonhuman people of the forest (see Appendix D). We say their name, and we name trails using the Western Abenaki language, to remind us that the Abenaki people are the Original People of the Dawnland, Ndakinna, out of respect for their culture and special relationship to the land, and to acknowledge their historic and ongoing contributions to our community.