

Andrews Community Forest Committee

Monday, January 12, 2026, 6:26pm-8:26pm

In-person: Sam Pratt, Wright Preston, Sonya Mastersen

Remote: Brad Elliott, Dan Wolfson

Minutes: Sonya Mastersen

Timekeeper: Wright Preston

General Committee Business::

Called to order at 6:26pm.

Meeting minutes from 12/22/25 approved unanimously; Sam moved to accept, seconded by Sonya.

No changes nor updates requested for tonight's agenda.

Buffer Map Updates::

Proposed buffer map updates were reviewed; these maps identify ecologically sensitive areas, wildlife corridors, and streams and wetlands. The "11 Protect Forestry Zone" is noted, but not currently mapped. Language within the management plan will identify these sensitive areas and explain recommendations for these zones and buffer areas. The committee will give this topic a final review at the January 26 meeting, allowing closure in the recreation section of the management plan draft.

Trail Updates::

It is recognized that Andrews Forest interests could use internet trail resource sites, such as TrailForks and Trail Finder, to maximize awareness and benefit to the public. This topic will be covered further at the January 26 meeting. Sam will reach out to TrailsForks administrators to request a time to consult with them about this; the committee will be invited.

Revisions to Management Plan::

Ian has suggested via notation some amendments supporting trail connectivity to neighboring properties, with landowner agreements and where ecologically appropriate. The Management Plan will also link to the VT Town Forest Stewardship Guide and the Vermont Town Forest Trail Design Guide. Criteria for reviewable trail deviations were discussed, focusing on limiting encroachment and fragmentation to buffer areas. Wright moved to establish a 5% area deviation maximum and a 20% maximum penetration distance for trail deviations, as illustrated using diagrams provided. Motion seconded by Sonya and unanimously approved. Supporting diagrams will be included in the Management Plan. Final approval of the recreation session will be proposed at the January 26 meeting.

Closure::

Committee confirmed the next meeting at ACFC at 6pm on January 26, 2026, which will include review of the Appendices and Education sections of the Management Plan revisions. Wright moved to adjourn, seconded by Sam, and unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:26pm.