

Andrews Community Forest Committee

MINUTES:: Monday, August 3, 2026, 6pm-8:15pm

Present:: Sam Pratt, Brad Elliot, Jimmy Cochran, Sonya Mastersen, Wright Preston, Dan Wolfson

Public Attending:: Merrick Gillies

Chair: Sam Pratt

Minutes: Sonya Mastersen

Timekeeper: Brad Elliot

- General Committee Business::

Called to order at 6pm. Quorum confirmed. Motion to approve minutes from last meeting, 6/22/26, moved by Brad, seconded by Wright, and unanimously approved. No changes nor updates requested for tonight's agenda. Brad announced that he will need to resign at some point in 2026, as he is moving out of Richmond.

- Recruitment::

The committee recognizes that Brad's eventual departure will take the committee down to bare quorum numbers; discussion focused on the option of temporarily reducing the number of seats on the committee to allow for a more achievable quorum, and also on advertising for candidates. Jimmy will engage with the Richmond Trails Committee to recruit for ACFC.

- ACFC Workday Planning::

The previously scheduled ACFC Work Day to abate the Multiflora Rose invasion was cancelled; Sam and Jim met to do scoping and get a better idea of how to manage removal efforts and workdays; some committee members acknowledged that this rose species is rigid and deeply rooted, and difficult to remove en masse. Alternate solutions were considered, such as heavy machinery or RCC- approved herbicides. Discussed approaching the county forester for recommendations.

- Review of Public Feedback for the Proposed Management Plan::

On June 29, 2026, 7pm, the Selectboard met to offer the public a venue to comment on the ACFC Management Plan draft, for which a link was and is currently posted on the Town website. Those present appreciated the feedback offered for its sincerity and substance. The committee acknowledged that the maps included within the MP would benefit from improved clarity, specifically publishing standalone georeferenced maps would be helpful for user navigation and trail planning. Discussed plans to move forward; further feedback on the draft is expected soon from the Trails Committee and the Conservation Commission.

- Trail Proposal::

Jimmy presented a compromise, focusing on a possible bike-friendly trail connector with Sip of Sunshine and making the lower trails pedestrian-only. Wildlife monitoring was also discussed. The committee determined more feedback needs to be processed before moving forward. Jim,

Sam, and Wright will research further regarding the viability of a Sip of Sunshine connector, to explore and refine a possible proposal.

- Close::

Committee members confirmed the next meeting of the ACFC at 6pm on August 24, 2026.

Sonya moved to adjourn, seconded by Jimmy, and unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.