

Bradford Elliott

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Letter of Intent: Andrews Community Forest Management Committee

Dear Mr. Arneson:

Please consider me for membership on the Andrews Community Forest Management Committee. My service on the Town Forest's Interim Steering Committee not only greatly broadened my perspective about the property but also revealed how much Richmond has to gain by protecting the land's extensive natural resources, including those yet to be discovered. Through the nine-town community forest project of which Richmond was a part, I learned just how unique the Andrews Community Forest is among Vermont's publicly owned and managed woodlands. Unlike others, it is still rich with flora and fauna, giving it a key role in sustaining the ecological integrity of the multi-thousand-acre Chittenden County Uplands Conservation Project of which it is a part. Few towns can claim such an asset. That's why I hope to continue helping our Town ensure that the Forest is cared for and utilized according to its Conservation Easement and Management Plan. By working alongside fellow committee members with diverse interests and expertise, I'd like to help the Andrews Community Forest become, through ongoing public engagement, a model for ecological understanding, forward-thinking land stewardship and recreational enjoyment.

As a recent report by the Vermont Land Trust and the Trust for Public Lands has illustrated, investments in land conservation such as those Richmond has made yield, on average, nine times their value in terms of natural resource functions such as air and water quality, carbon sequestration and habitat integrity. Our Town needs to do all it can to protect and sustain those functions while still enabling the public to discover and learn from the many natural wonders and processes, large and small, that the Forest provides.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,  
Brad Elliott  
434-3543