

From: Bradford Elliott <bradge@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, January 8, 2023 8:13 AM
To: Rosovsky, Judy
Cc: Josh Arneson
Subject: AFC panel

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Hi Judy:

Please share this letter with your members and attach it to the minutes for your upcoming meeting and discussion about the ACF panel.

For a year and a half I and others have spent hours upon hours at the Andrews Community Forest Committee's monthly meetings trying to get an open dialog going about the likely impacts on wildlife of a proposal to funnel untold volumes of trail traffic through some of the forest's most remote and sensitive habitats. Time after time, our concerns were dismissed with the promise they'd get a proper airing and discussion at a special public meeting of the Committee.

That meeting is now being planned. But it looks like the public will get all of 15 minutes in the two-hour event to ask questions about not just the trail plan but also the entirety of the Committee's proposed 44-page Management Plan revision. In November, after some members correctly noted the difficulty in dealing with the impacts on wildlife alone in such a short time, the idea came up and seemed to be accepted to ask the Conservation Commission to hold an event of its own to educate the public on the topic -- which one ACFC member described as "the 900-lb. gorilla in the room."

But now some on the ACFC want the RCC to avoid that subject as well. In the draft of the minutes for the December meeting, the RCC event was described as "a more universal conversation about town forests" that won't "get too specific about the ACFC, or the Easement."

So what's the RCC to do? Which members should it listen to? What does "too specific" mean? The ACFC has taken no vote to give the RCC clear direction. Its minutes only reveal members talking about contradictory concepts. Either the RCC should just take them as suggestions, and bring in the experts to

give this important topic the airing it needs. Or it should ask the ACFC to settle its internal disagreements through a vote clarifying what exactly it wants to the RCC event to cover and achieve. Otherwise I see the RCC just wasting time and energy, and no progress made towards ensuring the continuing health of the ACF and its wildlife.

Best regards,

Brad Elliott