

# Community Volunteer Application 2023

## Application Form for Town Commissions, Boards and Committees

Please submit your application by using this form or email to [dwardwell@richmondvt.gov](mailto:dwardwell@richmondvt.gov) or by placing a hard copy in the drop box outside the Town Office by April 12, 2023. Water & Sewer Commission applications are due June 1, 2023. Development Review Board (DRB) applications are due by May 10, 2023.

Email \*

amypowersvermont@gmail.com

First Name \*

Amy

Last Name \*

Powers

Phone Number \*

8023634755

Name of Commission/Board/Committee \*

Andrews Community Forest Committee

How many YEARS have you served on this Committee? \*

3

If you serve on another Commission/Board/Committee, please indicate which one(s).

Review the scheduled meeting day/time of the Commission, Board, or Committee along with the length of the term of the position (<https://www.richmondvt.gov/boards-meetings/vacancies-committees-commissions>).

Will you be able to serve for the term of the position?

Yes


No

Are you a Richmond Resident? \*

Yes

No

If you are applying for a new Term, then please introduce yourself to the Selectboard by providing a short cover letter detailing your background, training, and experience with the board/commission/committee you are applying for and/or resume. Please upload a .pdf or .doc file

 Amy Powers ACF...

This form was created inside of Town of Richmond VT.

Google Forms

April 11, 2023

To the Richmond Selectboard and Andrews Community Forest Committee:

I am writing to indicate my interest in and availability to continue to be part of the Andrews Community Forest Committee. I have served on this committee for the past three years and feel that remaining involved is important given that we are right in the middle of the intensive process of updating the Management Plan. I have been an active member of the committee and feel that the group is thoughtful, brings a wealth and variety of experience, gets well, and challenges one another while remaining kind, professional, and courteous. While the committee's work has not been a picnic these past couple of years, I don't feel it makes sense to jump ship while we are mid process, and feel I continue to have things to offer.

As other context, I have lived in Richmond for the past 20-something years, on Snipe Ireland Road, and enjoy opportunities to be involved in the town. Related to this committee, I was part of the Conservation Commission years back, and was part of the Richmond Land Trust's Willis Hill Management Committee for several years as well. I worked for 25 years in the environmental field until last year when I changed careers.

Thank you for considering me for continuing with the Andrews Community Forest Committee over the next three years.

Amy Powers  
836 Snipe Ireland Rd.  
[amypowersvermont@gmail.com](mailto:amypowersvermont@gmail.com)  
802-363-4755

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Email \*

CLITTLEF@GMAIL.COM

First Name \*

Caillin

Last Name \*

Littlefield

Phone Number \*

9788071494

Name of Commission/Board/Committee \*

Andrews Community Forest

How many YEARS have you served on this Committee? \*

3

If you serve on another Commission/Board/Committee, please indicate which one(s).

n/a

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Will you be able to serve for the term of the position?

Yes

No

Are you a Richmond Resident? \*

Yes

No

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Littlefield\_2023\_...

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Google Forms

I would like to remain on the Andrews Community Forest Committee (ACFC) for another term. We are in the midst of a multi-year effort to design and implement a trail network that meets both ecological protection and recreation objectives. I have already spent an enormous amount of time on this effort, navigating various trade-offs and strong feelings within the community. I am committed to seeing this process through and feel that my expertise as an ecologist and my regular trail user make me well suited to do so. Moreover, I am deeply committed to listening to all voices (I have personally met one-on-one with numerous residents regarding this issue), to remaining objective, and to avoiding biased decision-making that favors personal interests (whether mine or any other group). Rather, I seek to honestly implement the ACF management plan – complexities and all – and seek compromise whenever possible.

Caitlin Littlefield  
clittlef@gmail.com  
April 8, 2023

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Email \*

[lstokes@gmavt.net](mailto:lstokes@gmavt.net)

First Name \*

Ian

Last Name \*

Stokes

Phone Number \*

802 434 4425

Name of Commission/Board/Committee \*

Andrews Community Forest Committee

How many YEARS have you served on this Committee? \*

(none)

If you serve on another Commission/Board/Committee, please indicate which one(s).

(none currently)

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Will you be able to serve for the term of the position?

Yes

No

Are you a Richmond Resident? \*

Yes

No

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To the Richmond Select Board:

I'm asking to be considered for the Andrews Community Forest Committee (ACFC) starting this year.

There are several reasons I believe I can offer my help to the ACFC and the Town. I have prioritized active recreation (and transportation) all my life; I have explored the Forest and all the flagged proposed trails and studied the Easement and the Management Plan (MP) and proposals. Also I've come to know and listen to people with strong interests and opinions about the Forest, across a spectrum. I've curated a website <https://infoacf.wordpress.com> that is a repository documenting key resources and many materials and other information organized for easy access, and materials relevant to the issues of conservation and recreation, mostly submitted by others. I have attended most meetings of the ACFC since early 2022, where I have spoken and submitted written comments and questions. Most of all, I see the Forest as primarily an important contribution to maintaining biodiversity in our region, as well as providing us humans with something that approximates the natural wilderness experience that we seek and benefit from.

My practical experience includes serving on the Trails Committee, being a hiking leader for the Senior Center, and serving on the Bike/Ped/Trails advisory committee. Now retired, I was a career scientist trying to objectively derive and evaluate evidence to support knowledge and understanding.

I think that most disagreements about the Trails and Management plans have been identified and have been well expressed in many forums. These include the questions as submitted to the recent (April 29th) ACFC Public Engagement meeting, the comments submitted afterwards by those present, as well as many points raised in public comments and written testimony provided to the ACFC, FPF postings, Times Ink! letters and articles, maps generated from Arrowwood data and other sources.

So clearly the challenge now is to find solutions acceptable to as many people as possible. Personally, I believe there are already many good starting points, and I would point to some very specific, and easy-to-implement MP2 improvements collated and offered to the ACFC in January 2023, here: [https://infoacf.files.wordpress.com/2023/03/mp2\\_plus.pdf](https://infoacf.files.wordpress.com/2023/03/mp2_plus.pdf) (For Apple computers, download and open with Adobe Reader), and a summary here: [https://infoacf.files.wordpress.com/2023/01/list\\_mp2\\_suggestions\\_jan\\_2023.pdf](https://infoacf.files.wordpress.com/2023/01/list_mp2_suggestions_jan_2023.pdf)

For the Trails Plan, I believe there's a need for additional expertise and more surveying, though I have personally made some specific suggestions to modify the trails plan, most recently in my submitted comments after the April 29th meeting. We know there is a spectrum of opinion about what should be done, so we must respect and work with people across that spectrum to develop a reasonable consensus. Also, we must recognize the level of impatience that has developed, so the hard work of the ACFC must be redoubled efficiently and with strong leadership. There are many people in our community who can offer expertise and experience of practical methods and procedures for monitoring and planning for human activity in publicly-owned conserved land.

At a practical level I should note that I have developed quite severe hearing loss, though there are ways that I and others can accommodate the challenges that meetings present.

So, I hope to be able to contribute especially to an improved Management Plan, the principal task for the ACFC in the immediate future. Thanks for considering my application,

Ian Stokes



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## LoI ACF Committee

1 message

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**Julian Portilla** <julianportilla2@gmail.com>

Fri, May 12, 2023 at 4:40 PM

To: jarneson@richmondvt.gov, dwardwell@richmondvt.gov

Dear Mr. Arneson,

My name is Julian Portilla. I live at [148 Hidden Pines Circle](#) in Richmond. I'm writing to express my interest in participating on the Andrews Community Forest committee. I'm an avid hiker, biker and nature lover. My wife and I enjoy hiking in the ACF throughout the year. I'm also a mediator with over 20 years experience of bringing people together to discuss complex issues. I have followed the discussions on the ACF and find myself concerned over the impact that the disagreements on how to manage the ACF will have on the relationships between members of our community who feel passionately about conservation, recreation and the trade-offs that each require.

I believe there is actually a great deal of common ground among those involved and I would like to contribute to the process highlighting common concerns and proposals to make decisions that will benefit our community.

I also think that local participation in civic duties is the best way to maintain a strong and healthy democracy. While issues at the national level can feel distant and daunting, engaging neighbors and fellow residents of Richmond feels like a useful contribution to the health of our local government and sense of community.

Please consider my participation in the committee.

Sincerely,

Julian Portilla

c. 802 399 0241

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Email \*

lianathunder@gmail.com

First Name \*

Liana

Last Name \*

Schneidman

Phone Number \*

8453325170

Name of Commission/Board/Committee \*

Andrews Community Forest

How many YEARS have you served on this Committee? \*

0

If you serve on another Commission/Board/Committee, please indicate which one(s).

None

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And\_CV - Liana S...

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Hi there,

My name is Liana Schneidman. I am a 32-year-old Mechanical Engineer. I'm currently a homeowner in Richmond Vermont. I've rented in Richmond since 2018 but was finally able to buy a place in 2022. I'm very lucky.

Like many other Richmond residents, I am an avid outdoorsy person. It seems that every year I'm coming up with more and more ways to enjoy all that Vermont has to offer. I've always loved hiking, in the past few years I've gotten very into mountain biking, and backcountry snowboarding. I have a medium sized dog who I take on many of these adventures. Almost every day we walk through town to the Volunteer's green in Richmond. It's probably his favorite activity, not to mention the most peaceful part of my day.

Aside from the obvious health benefits (both mental and physical) that this outdoor centric lifestyle has provided me, I've been lucky enough to find myself a group of likeminded folks. Nearly every day that I walk my dog to the park I meet or cross paths with an average of 3-4 people and their dogs that I know. From these regular chance encounters, a beautiful thing has occurred. I have a community! These dog-walking neighbors and friends have proven to be some of the best people in my life! I've been offered free pet sitting, free help with housing projects, and help moving! My gratitude is endless. I hope to continue to spread the generous spirit of the Richmond dog walking community everywhere I go.

Which brings me to why I'd like to join this committee. I'm interested in the innerworkings of these community-building spaces. I think we're very lucky to have this land and I'd like to help make use of it while being mindful of the multi-use approach. I love our town and want to contribute.



Thanks for reading!

Liana Schneidman

I am submitting my request to serve a second term on the Andrews Community Forest Committee. If allowed to serve another term, I would continue to leverage my professional background in stakeholder engagement and communications in support of equitable implementation of the town's management plan. As when I joined the committee, my intent remains to manage the forest as a community-held asset – a valuable shared parcel that creates benefit for all Richmond residents, the management of which reflects the varied ways in which residents value our local forest.

My career currently focuses on stakeholder engagement related to sustainable energy. I've previously worked in environmental education, done work related to urban forest management, and completed a graduate fellowship related to environmental management strategies. I'm grateful to have the opportunity to leverage my experience in these domains to steward this public resource.

Nick Neverisky

[nickneverisky@gmail.com](mailto:nickneverisky@gmail.com)