

# 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 \*

[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)

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

This form was created inside of Town of Richmond VT.

Google Forms

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