

From Ellen Kraft

Dear Richmond Selectboard,

I would like to strongly suggest that Brad Elliot's application for the ACFC committee be denied. As a former member of the ACFC from 2018 to 2022, I was able to see first-hand how his behavior in public meetings was disruptive, unproductive, and sometimes just inappropriate. He would frequently interrupt people, make exasperated comments, and his tone was often difficult to manage and made people feel both uncomfortable and unwelcome. His thinking was often rigid, disregarding of professional opinions, and often inserting himself as a singular authority on a matter that has multiple viewpoints and data/ science to show a more diverse story.

There is no doubt he is passionate about land use issues, but our job as public servants and stewards of the ACFC is to both represent the needs and wants of our entire community, and use science and professional opinions to shape the future of the forest. His passion often got in the way of positive public discourse and created a difficult environment for collaboration.

Ellen K

From Caitlin Littlefield

Hi Jay,

I hope you've been enjoying this lovely, if soggy, fall.

I write to you, as Selectboard Chair, because I'm aware of the fact that Brad Elliot has submitted an application to serve on the ACF Committee. Brad's contributions to conservation in Richmond, as through the Richmond Land Trust, have been tremendous. However -- and it saddens me to re-engage in this way -- I feel compelled to share that I do not believe he should be granted membership to the ACF committee. Brad was absolutely a contributing factor in my own decision to resign. (I can elaborate if you'd like, but there are plenty of email communications you've been on that illustrate this.) Moreover, it is my understanding that the interim ACF committee formed during the parcel's acquisition rejected his application for committee membership at that time, because of how he had comported himself. I do not know if/where any associated minutes documenting that decision live, but Cecelia Danks or Hannah Phillips could potentially confirm this. (Hannah is currently the State Lands Administrative Program Manager for the state and was Chair of the interim committee.)

Thank you for considering my opinion. I am including the current ACFC Co-Chairs on this email.

Best,
Caitlin

From Berne Broudy

Berne Broudy

Mon, Oct 23,
12:34 PM

to dwardwell, me, jarneson

Hello Duncan, Daniel, Josh, and Ian-

I am writing to oppose Brad Elliott's application to serve on the Andrews Town Forest Committee. Even prior to Andrews Town Forest being acquired by the Town of Richmond, Brad has been a polarizing, vocal opponent of recreation in the town forest, too divisive and uncompromising in his views to be a productive member of the committee. Brad is not a person who wishes for Andrews Town Forest to serve all Richmond residents. He has an agenda to prevent recreation in the town forest. I strongly oppose his consideration as a committee member, and hope that the committee and the selectboard will consider Brad's years of biased communication on FPF and in meetings and choose other committee members.

Many thanks.

Warmly, Berne

Berne Broudy
writer, photographer, adventurer

From Tyler Merritt

Good morning Josh and Ian,

Can you please forward my letter to the Selectboard members and to the members of the ACFC. Thanks and have a great week.

To Andrews Community Forest Committee and Richmond Selectboard,

I am writing in regards to Brad Elliott's application to join the Andrews Community Forest Committee (ACFC). For the good of the ACFC as well as the future of the Town Forest, this application should not be accepted for several reasons:

- There is not more of a divisive person when it comes to the direction of the Town Forest. Mr. Elliott had applied once before to join the ACFC in 2018, but was not accepted. In conversations with the interim Chairperson, she says it was because of his divisive attitude, uncompromising positions, and inability to work to work with others to find consensus.

- I served a full term on the ACFC and saw first hand Mr. Elliott's lack of compromise and his tactics in delaying any progress for the ACFC

- *The Selectboard has held a special meeting to promote a more positive direction for the ACFC and to help facilitate the ACFC to move in that direction. An appointment of Mr. Elliott would be a full rebuke of this effort.*
- *While I was not a fan of how the Selectboard treated Paul Hauf when he applied for the ACFC, I would hope the same concern for divisiveness on the Committee would be applied here and would equally disqualify Mr. Elliott from the Committee.*

I understand it has been very difficult to get applicants for the vacant seats on the ACFC. The sad reality is, much of the blame for this rests at the feet of Mr. Elliott. It would really set the ACFC back to award him a position on the ACFC.

Thank you for reading my opinion.

Tyler Merritt

To The Honorable ACFC,

I am writing to support Brad Elliot's application to join the ACFC. I have lived in Richmond for 25 years and I can't think of anyone with more to offer our community and the big beautiful ACF regarding a comprehensive Management and Trail Plan that will balance recreational access with vital natural resource protections.

Brad has provided a wealth of leadership to Richmond over the years including team efforts to raise millions for important conservation projects. His communication and collaboration skills will be instrumental in ensuring multiple perspectives are included and a variety of needs are integrated into final decisions.

Examples of Brad's cooperative spirit when given an official role include his team work regarding Willis Hill where school children learn about nature, families sled and wildlife have safe access to wilder destinations on both sides of the train tracks. Securing large sums to save Gillett Pond for countless wetland loving creatures, paddlers, xc skiers and ice skating enthusiasts is also worth appreciating. Brad helped to protect the Richmond Rivershore Trail, one of our last remaining Silver Maple-Ostrich Fern Floodplain Forest in the area. It was no small feat given the enormous erosion issues, flood damage and parking challenges, but he worked with others to make it happen.

Brad's depth of understanding for responsible land management is rooted in his experience helping others draft the original ACF MP in 2018, knowing it would evolve with more time consuming study of the forest. He has extensively researched and consulted with many community members and experts in the field of conservation science over the past five years. The meaningful information he has to share will help inform sound decisions and should be included.

Sincerely,
Jeanette Malone

11/11/23

I am writing in support of Brad Eliot's application to join the ACFC. I have come to know Brad over the past couple years primarily because of my own interest in the process and issues related to the ACF and because I consider myself, as many do in Richmond, as someone who values and enjoys the human benefits of outdoor recreation.

I think the ACFC would be very hard pressed to find anyone else to serve on this committee that has Brad's extensive previous experience in conservation and recreation within the Richmond community. He's served on the Conservation Commission and the Richmond Land Trust. He has knowledge of the ACF Conservation Easement, and he helped develop the forest's initial management plan. He has kept current with the committee's trials and tribulations over the past couple years by being a regular attendee and active participant in ACFC public meetings. Unlike others with just a general interest in serving and at a time when many on all sides would like to see resolution, there would be little need for Brad to have to take time to "come up to speed".

I respect and support Brad's willingness to be persistent about issues related to conservation and recreation that he feels have not been adequately addressed to date. While those who just want to get on with building trails in the ACF may see this as irksome, I support his focus on the importance of acknowledging and incorporating up-to-date information – in both outdoor recreation and conservation - into a long-term management plan that best preserves the future health of the forest and its wild inhabitants as we humans recreate there.

Being persistent in this endeavor does not equate to being against outdoor recreation in the ACF. In fact, Brad has publicly stated (FPF, March 2023) the conservation agreement obligates the town to provide recreational opportunities in the ACF and that trails are allowed. He notes it's their location that needs to be scrutinized – because there is a concurrent town obligation in the conservation agreement to protect wildlife, habitats, and the overall ecological health of the forest. I think Brad has the background, interest, and up-to-date knowledge to make critical

contributions to the ACFC's work on behalf of our town and our forest and I support his application.

Nancy Zimny

Richmond resident

Hello,

I am writing to the Andrews Community Forest Committee. Please provide this to them for consideration.

As a Richmond resident to voice my respectful opposition to Brad Elliot's application to be a commissioner on the Andrews Community Forest Commission (ACFC).

I have worked alongside Brad on many conservation issues in Richmond and have participated in Richmond Conservation Commission (RCC) and ACFC meetings in which Brad participated.

Brad has strong opinions regarding conservation and ecology, and has attended many ACFC and RCC meetings. While he represents an important point of view, the way he approaches that representation is troublesome.

Brad has consistently violated the rules of decorum at meetings, resorted to ad-hominem attacks, belittled the work of commission members, and generally failed to demonstrate his ability to work collaboratively on a commission.

On multiple occasions, Brad has raised his voice at commission members and members of the public, talked over commission members and commission chairs, violated requests to keep comments under a certain time length, and generally disregarded calls to order.

Unfortunately, if Brad were to be appointed to the ACFC I do not believe he would genuinely listen to the ideas and requests of the other commission members and the public. I do not believe he would help the ACFC and the Town reach a consensus on a plan for the ACF. I believe he would doggedly pursue his personal vision while deriding any deviation thereof.

I hope the selectboard carefully reviews his application and understands that while he may have a wealth of knowledge on the subject matter, Brad has demonstrated a dearth of ability to work with others. At a time when the community needs to come together to find a solution, inserting a divisive voice into the equation will not produce positive results.

Sincerely,

-A concerned resident

November 26, 2023

Daniel Schmidt & Ian Stokes, Co-chairs
Andrews Community Forest Committee
richmondtownforest@gmail.com

Re: Brad Elliot's application for appointment to the Andrews Community Forest Committee

Dear Andrew's Community Forest Committee members,

I write in support of the application submitted by Brad Elliot for a seat on the Andrews Community Forest Committee. As I understand it, the Committee will be reviewing applications at its meeting tomorrow.

In the 20 years I've lived in Richmond I've seen Brad Elliot take on numerous projects large and small to help Richmond's environment and its citizens. Brad helped the town pass its Conservation Reserve Fund and ever since has played an important role in ensuring that the fund gets reauthorized each time it comes up for a vote. He's also served on the Conservation Commission, the Richmond Land Trust board and even the initial Andrews Community Forest Steering Committee.

I've had the opportunity to collaborate with Brad on the Great Richmond Root-Out!, several Richmond Land Trust projects, and, over the past couple of years, the ACFC's deliberations on the development of a new trail plan and management plan.

I can't say that Brad and I have always agreed on projects, goals or even some strategies; but I can say that he's always been willing to consider multiple opinions and he works hard to ensure that all perspectives get fair and equitable consideration. Moreover, Brad's experience with local public involvement in policy development would be a big help to the Andrew's Forest Committee in designing an open and transparent public decision-making process that avoids delays and helps build public buy-in and support for any new management and trail plans.

I hope that the Andrews Community Forest Committee will consider Brad Elliot for the open seat. Thank you for your consideration and for your efforts on behalf Richmond and our town forest.

Sincerely, Jon

jon kart
44 old brooklyn ct, richmond

jonkart@hotmail.com

802-999-7515