



Town of Oak Ridge Mountains to Sea Trail Committee Meeting

Monthly Meeting Minutes – October 2025

Oak Ridge Town Hall | Oak Ridge, NC

October 28, 2025

Attendees: Joel Deaton, Stephanie Ferrell, Mike Kimel, Moses Perry, Martha Pittman, Jeff Richter

Welcome

The minutes from the September 23 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Project updates

- **Headwaters:** The beavers have been very active and determined to build a den on Linville Road entrance end of the trail. Joel has torn down the den five times in seven days. Joel, Anne and Bill Bruce looked at the den to get an understanding of its impact and what options we might have. The town is now consulting with the experts at the Department of Agriculture about how to remove the beavers to help prevent any additional flooding.
- **Pemberley/Carriage Cover:** the final, new bridge is finished. ~20 people showed up from VF Corp to help with the trail workday on Oct 22 and helped to finish the trail and assist with other trail maintenance work. The trail is in good shape.
 - A portion of the MST Committee meeting in November will be dedicated to talking about name ideas for the trails. Committee members are tasked with walking the new trails before the meeting and brainstorming new ideas for names for the two trails to review.
 - Once there is a list of names, it will be provided to the community through Facebook posts and an e-blast to have people vote on the suggestions. The names that get the most votes will be the new trail names.

- The trails will not be MST trails for now (since the trail does not have an established “out”). They are considered Oak Ridge Trails and, for now, will be designated as such.
- **Scout Update**
 - Jackson Heltsley’s project has been approved by the Scouts Eagle Board of Review and he has moved forward with Mike Kimmel. Mike has enlisted the help of a friend who is a subject matter expert in wildlife. They are going to walk the trail and plan out the content for the four broad topics and placement of the signs.
- **Ashford Easement Update**
 - No update
- **Grant Discussion**
 - No grants identified
- **MST Liaison Updates**
 - New blaze orange hats are now available in the MST online store. Good idea for hiking in the fall during hunting season
- **Town Manager Update**
 - The new parking lot at Scuba Tools is complete. Drainage will need to be monitored. Next steps are adding signage and a kiosk.
- **Guided hikes**
 - Focus will be on scheduling hikes on the new trails
- **Facebook posts**
 - Continue posting updates on workdays and follow-ups.
- **Volunteer appreciation**
 - We will continue to keep this on the to do list and look to do in the spring. No additional actions at this time.
- **Committee membership**

- Frank's committee membership was approved at the last Town Council meeting. Both Jeff and Moses have submitted their applications to join the committee.
- **Trail workdays**
 - Trails need weed eating and leaf blowing. Some trees near the Scuba Tools parking lot need to be removed.
 - Workday options – Wednesday, Nov 12 - since a small crew is needed, Joel is going to reach out to people who can help rather than trying to recruit people via e-mail/Facebook.
- **Miscellaneous**
 - Note that Mike's email address has been changed. Everyone was asked to update their address book with the new address.
 - The November meeting of the MST Committee falls during Thanksgiving week so it was decided to hold the meeting a week earlier. The new date is **November 18 at the Town Hall.**
- With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by

Anne Steele, Chair