



TOWN OF OAK RIDGE
MOUNTAINS TO SEA TRAIL COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 18, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.
OAK RIDGE TOWN HALL
MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Martha Pittman, Stephanie Ferrell, Moses Perry, Jeff Richter, Mike Kimmel, Anne Steele, Bill Bruce

- Anne Steele opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees.
- The minutes from the October meeting were approved.
- **Project Updates**
 - Joel Deaton was not present at the meeting but had sent an e-mail with an update on the status of the Headwaters Trail. There is erosion in one area from runoff from a property owner's irrigation system. Additional work will be done by the committee in that spot to mitigate the erosion.

The committee brainstormed on ways to beautify portion of the Headwater Trail and delineate trail boundaries.

- Bill Bruce provided an update on the status of the beavers that have taken up residence on the Linville Road end of the Headwaters Trail. Bill and Joel recently met with a Wildlife Ecologist to assess the situation. There is no way to relocate them elsewhere. The best practice with beavers is to trap them and euthanize them if we cannot figure out how to coexist. However, the beavers are building/living on the Heron's Nest HOA property to which the Town does not currently have access. If we choose to pursue, Oak Ridge would need to seek approval from the HOA to get access to their property.

At this time, we will continue to monitor the situation as to ensure that the flooding from the dams does not get close to the "causeway" and risk washing it out as that would be detrimental to the trail through that area. We will leave the dam as it is to see what happens with water levels.

- **Scout update**
 - Mike is going to walk the Headwaters Trail with Jackson Heltsley in the coming weeks to discuss the placement of the educational content

- **MST Update**

Martha has been named the Vice President of the Friends of the MST board.

Jerry Barker, author of “Discovering North Carolina Mountains-to-Sea Trail” is interested in participating in a book signing and “Open House” in Oak Ridge. Martha will check with Jerry on dates for Feb-March timeframe in terms of hosting something, hopefully at the Farm House.

- **Trail Naming**

With the trails behind Pemberly and Carriage Cove nearing completion, it’s time to name them. To get the community involved with the naming efforts, the MST Committee brainstormed on options and narrowed down the list to four options for each of the two new trails.

A survey will be sent to the community via the regular channels (Facebook, NextDoor, Instagram, and Trail Volunteers Email) to collect input on the favorites. The survey will run for most of December to give plenty of time to have people weigh in. Regular reminders via Social Media and email will be sent to ensure that we get a number of responses.

Options for Section A (trail from Scuba Tools along creek)

1. Fern Hollow
2. Hawk Hollow
3. Beech Ridge
4. Craggy Creek

Options for Spur loop

1. Carriage Trace Loop
2. Footman’s Loop
3. Old Harness Way
4. White Oak Way

- The MST committee will not hold a December meeting due to the holidays.

Respectfully submitted by,

Stephanie Ferrell