



MST Committee
Town of Oak Ridge
April 28, 2026

MST Meeting opened at 6:00 pm

Present: Anne Steele, Bill Bruce, Mike Kimel, Joel Deaton, Jeff Richter, Moses Perry

Anne requested approval of minutes from March meeting. Motion made and approved.

Project Updates

Joel

- Headwaters trail intrusion – upturned dirt likely a builder hooking into the septic line. Hopefully just a one-time incursion; however, could happen again. Mike suggested to look into rerouting trail to stay away from properties to which Joel said it is definitely possible. *Recommendation made and seconded – “Pursue reroute of trail to avoid proximity to property lines at point of existing incursion” Timeline TBD*
- Beaver activity nominal
- Cascade Trails – what was thought as an ATV trail now appears to be old road. County workers have made effort to discourage people from using by placing fallen trees and debris over pathway. Joel noted some fixtures need attention or minor maintenance. (bench, rails, rope)
- A “tidy up” day with weed eaters for trail maintenance is needed in the near future. Will coordinate work date.

Bill

- The Cascades Preserves agreement with county has expired. Oak Ridge park staff no longer able to commit time for maintenance. Bill would like committee to review agreement once it comes back up.

Mike

- Distributed map with proposed MST around Belews Lake area. Ben Jones is key contact.

Bill

- Looking for agreement for new bridge placement on the trail behind Scuba Tools. He is reaching out to property owners as the survey is now complete. Anne mentioned the new owner of the house next to Scuba Tools seems to be very trail friendly.

Scout Report: Mike suggested town staff and town council be invited to the Headwaters trail to showcase the signs Jackson installed. (Excellent work!) Anne will work on a communication and plan on setting a date for this.

Canine Capers – Several committee members will be present at Canine Capers event to promote MST on May 2nd.

Reports

MST Liaison – Joel – MST gathering in Asheville was a great success. Next year the meeting will be in Elkin which has a very strong group of volunteers. 2027 will be the 50th anniversary of the MST concept.

Manager's Update – Bill – no updates at this time

Conservation Easement – Bill mentioned the Blalock property. There are conservation papers back in motion and the land conservancy is optimistic to have this completed by Aug. 2026.

Community & Outreach:

1. Guided Hikes – *Mike made a motion (which was seconded and approved) that April and October are to be guided hike months with 1 or 2 planned events. Committee will take up planning for October in coming months.*
2. Facebook Page – No updates
3. Volunteer Appreciation – Open discussion about inviting town staff and other trail committees from adjacent areas. (regional celebration)

Trail Work Days – May 16 and May 27

Meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Anne Steele, Chair