



Town Of Oak Ridge
Mountains-to-Sea Trail Committee Meeting
June 24, 2025 | 6:00 P.M.
Oak Ridge Town Hall

Attendees: Anne Steele, Mike Kimmel, Martha Pittman, Stephanie Ferrell

MINUTES

- Anne Steele, MST committee chairperson, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. The minutes from the April 22, 2025 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.
- Headwaters update: the trail is in good shape but there are some small maintenance issues that could be cleaned up during a trail workday. Both Anne (and her husband, Galen) and Mike have cleaned up parts of the trail on their own which has improved the trail experience for summer hikers/walkers. In addition, Martha and her husband, Benny, removed a downed tree from the trail.
- Carriage Cove/Pemberley Estates trails: during June, work began on two new bridges being built for Eagle Scout projects. One bridge is complete and the other is slated to be completed the first week of July. One final bridge is needed near the start of the trail near the Scuba Shop. Several Scouts have expressed an interest but the committee is waiting for one to confirm.

With the building of the final bridges and the establishment of the trailhead and parking lot, we are moving closer to a grand opening of the trail. Starting in July, work will begin on trail naming, development of signage and other items needed to open the trail.

- Ashford easement: during the June Town Council meeting, Anne provided an update to the council on the state of the easement. Currently, there is no change in the status of the easement and no trail building has begun per the direction of the Council. Another update is to be provided at the November Council meeting.
- Grants Discussion: Anne, Martha and Bill Bruce met with local and state trail leaders (Palmer McIntyre – Piedmont Land Conservancy, Brent Laurenz - Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail, and Betsy Brown - Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail) to

discuss the current status and future plans of local trails. Palmer is going to schedule a meeting with trail leaders in Oak Ridge and Summerfield to discuss a path forward for connecting trails between the two communities.

In addition, Anne, Martha and Bruce were made aware of a large number of grants available for trail projects in NC. The grants vary in what they will cover but Oak Ridge needs to keep this in mind as we move forward with trail projects. For instance, what grants might be available to help pay for adding educational information to trails such as the Headwaters Trail? An interpretative trail could include information such as native wildlife, native plants, important geographic and historic markers.

MST Liaison: Joel was not in attendance, so Martha shared an update that she had received from the Friends of the MST. Two notable dates were provided: 2026 is the Semi quincennial anniversary of the country and the Friends of the MST are going to be planning activities to celebrate that anniversary. In addition, the 50th anniversary of the MST will be celebrated in 2027. We will determine activities in Oak Ridge as we get closer to both dates.

MST Workday: a workday has been scheduled for July 9 at 9:00 am. Volunteers are to meet at the Headwaters Trail parking lot on Linville Road. An email will go out to the email list as well as postings on Facebook and NextDoor.

With that, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by

Anne Steele, Chair