



**Town of Oak Ridge**  
**Mountains-to-Sea-Trail Committee Meeting**  
**July 22, 2025 6:00 pm**  
**Oak Ridge Town Hall**

**Attendees:** Anne Steele, Martha Pittman, Teresa Barberly, Mike Kimel, Bill Bruce  
Guest- Adrian Eckenrod

**Minutes**

Martha Pittman, Committee Vice Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. The minutes from the June 24, 2025 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Headwaters Update: On July 9<sup>th</sup> the committee hosted a trail workday. Maintenance was performed to cut back growth and work on problem wet areas. Committee members continue to work on their own time to clear debris from storms as needed.

Carriage Cove/Scout Update: Bill Bruce informed the group that Brock and his crew hope to begin work at the Scuba Tools parking lot in mid to late August. Anne and Joel met with Stephanie and her son Will on July 11<sup>th</sup> to look over the completed bridge he built for his Eagle Scout project. The bridge is very sturdy, looks great, and is a wonderful addition to the trail. While in the area we looked over another bridge being built by a Scout. It is well on the way to being completed. We are still in need of one more bridge before we can open the trails to the public. We mentioned coming up with names for these trails. We discussed the idea of asking for input from the public and how we should go about gathering this information. Some ideas included posting on Facebook or maybe a notice on the Town Hall website. We need to decide on names so we can have signs made in order to open the trails. We decided to add signage/naming of trails to the agenda for our August meeting. We would want to include a sign on 150 as well as a small kiosk in the parking lot.

Ashford Easement: At this time there is no update.

Grants: Bill and Martha discussed a Recreational Trail Program (RTP) grant. There was talk about if we are able to use that grant money for improvements to our existing trails as well as to the new ones. We are looking to add educational materials/signs to our trail system. This was an exploratory discussion which will continue to be reviewed. There are many grants available for trails and we are hoping to make use of the funds in Oak Ridge.

Mike Kimel presented a detailed proposal of incorporating an Oak Ridge Interpretive Trail Program. This would involve collaboration from many experts to help gather information on a variety of topics. It would be an all-encompassing education of Oak Ridge's history and our surrounding nature. Mike put a great deal of thought and effort into this idea. All present liked the idea and agreed it is worth pursuing. Mike's next plan of action is to speak with other Oak Ridge Committees to provide the information and gather feedback. This project would not only be a great addition to our trails, but it would also allow for public involvement and working together with other committees which we see as a positive community building opportunity.

FMST: Information on the yearly Gathering has been announced. It will be held in Ashville on April 10-12, 2026.

Community Outreach: Martha has been coordinating with the FMST and working on informational cards. These are small cards that can be used at informational booths as well as handed out to hikers when we see them on the trail. The cards will have information about the OR MST Committee and where the local MST is located in town. Our contact information is also included on the cards. We hope to have a photo for the card soon and then they can be printed and made available.

We discussed our participation in Heritage Day. We plan to have our bamboo hiking poles as part of our booth again this year.

Trail Workdays: At this time there are not any workdays scheduled.

Respectfully submitted by

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Anne Steele, Chair