



Town of Oak Ridge Mountains to Sea Trail Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Oak Ridge Town Hall | Oak Ridge, NC

August 26, 2025

Attendees: Anne Steele, Joel Deaton, Mike Kimmel, Teresa Barbery, Martha Pittman, Stephanie Ferrell, Bill Bruce

Guests: Moses Perry and Anne Schneider

Anne Steele called the meeting to order and started with introductions for members and guests. The minutes from the July meeting were reviewed and approved.

Headwaters update

Joel recently treated the gravel pathway on Pepper Road with 18 gals of Round-Up. This is the second treatment for the year, but a third treatment may be necessary. Per Bill Bruce, Town Staff can help with this project moving forward.

Carriage Cove/Pemberley Trail System

As we move towards opening the Carriage Cove/Pemberley trails, we should consider hosting some “sneak peek” hikes to show off the trails. This will give people exposure to the trails and a chance to get to know them. Following the “sneak peek” hikes, we can see community involvement by asking people to provide name suggestions for the trails via a Facebook post.

However, before any hikes, the final bridge needs to be built near Scuba Tools. Since we are not having much interest from Scouts to take on this project, the committee will handle constructing the bridge. Two work days will need to be scheduled to build it:

Installation of the posts – Wednesday, Sept 17

Bridge building - Saturday, Sept 20

Ashford easement

Waiting on court schedule for hearing date

Grants

We need to consider land and easement acquisition grants because there are a lot of grants available in the state right now. Also consider interpretive/educational trail grants. Consider scoping out a project to have ready should a grant be found that we want to apply for.

MST report

Joel – the date (April 10-12, 2026) for the Friends of the MST Gathering has been set and the location (Asheville).

Martha – recently attended the installation of a kiosk panel in Raleigh dedicated by the Federation of Women’s Clubs who raised \$25K for trail signage. Also, reminded everyone to keep up with their volunteer hours.

Town manager report

Planning for the new trail head parking lot at Scuba Tools is still underway

Community outreach

48th anniversary of the MST is taking place in September. The Friends of the MST are planning lots of celebration events during the month. Our two September workdays and our info table participation in Heritage Day will be our “celebration” activities.

Heritage Day (Sept 27 | 10-4) – MST Committee will have a booth and will be giving away the bamboo walking sticks. Anne will plan to help with set-up, Theresa can work in the morning (until 12). Martha will work the whole day. Stephanie needs to help by:

- Creating a recruiting flyer for new committee members
- Developing a small sign that Oak Ridge is a member of the Great Trails State coalition.

E-mails and Facebook posts to go out regarding workdays on Sept 17 and Sept 20.

Facebook page

Post ideas:

- Publicize the Scout bridges
- Heritage Days
- Workdays

Committee membership

Still looking for additional members

There was no additional business so the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Anne Steele, Chair