



Oak Ridge MST Committee

March 24, 2026

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Anne Steele, Bill Bruce, Joel Deaton, Moses Perry, Jeff Richter, Mike Kimmel, Stephanie Ferrell

Project Updates

Over the past month, two workdays were held. During one of the workdays, a dyke was built on the Headwaters Trail. During the second workday, the bridge was removed from the trail that leads away from Scuba Tools.

Mike K. suggested building two footbridges (like the small bridges in Beaver Alley) in the area where the dyke was built. This in case the dyke is not sufficient to handle a big rain. The committee decided to monitor the situation and revisit it in a few months after we have had rain and can see how things are holding up.

In addition, Mike K. suggested landscaping, adding trees, or fence building (or all of the above) to beautify the area along the Headwaters Trail that is so barren/destroyed from the most recent construction work. It was decided that the neighbors who live along that stretch of trail would be invited to the May MST committee meeting to discuss options and see what they would like to see done (if anything.) The Oak Ridge Tree Committee will also be invited in case they can contribute ideas and/or trees to plant in that area. Anne to draft the letter to the residents in that area.

The trail re-route behind Carriage Cove (near the Scuba Tools trailhead) will take place after the easement is re-surveyed. The quote to survey came in at \$1750-\$3500 and will take up to two days. Bill has prepared letters to the homeowners who live next to the areas that will be surveyed to inform them that the work will be taking place.

Scout update

Jackson Heltsley's project of adding educational signage to the Headwaters Trail is nearly complete. The project has turned out so well that it was suggested that the signs and materials serve as templates for future educational signage on other trails in Oak Ridge.

Events

Canine Capers is scheduled to be held at the Oak Ridge Town Park on May 2. The MST Committee has had a booth in the past and Martha suggested that we reserve one for this year. The Committee

agreed and Moses, Mike and Stephanie signed up to set-up, work, and dismantle the booth. Additional details will be shared during the April MST meeting.

MST Liaison Report

Joel reminded everyone that the Friends Gathering is scheduled for April 10-12 in Asheville. Full details and agenda is available online.

Town Manager Report

Guilford County, along with members of Oak Ridge Parks & Rec, cleaned up the Preserves parking lot by removing kudzu and other weeds from the area around the lot. Another clean-up project is soon to be undertaken on a trail inside the Preserves where it looks like someone has been riding an ATV on an unmarked trail. Members of the Committee said that they had seen the Fire Department riding their side-by-side ATV on the trail down to the bridge and there is some question as to if they were the ones who created the trail in order to access that part of the park.

Conservation Easement Committee

The Conservation Easement Committee met in March. The projects have not moved forward but Sean Taylor is going to be in closer contact with the Piedmont Land Conservancy in order to make some progress. Both the Jack Blaylock and Alma Blaylock properties have implications for trails in Oak Ridge so it's important to get both projects wrapped up.

Community Outreach

No guided hikes to be scheduled at this time and no trail work days are needed at this time.

The next MST Committee Meeting is scheduled for April 28 at the Oak Ridge Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted by

Anne Steele, Chair