

**OHA Steering Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes, September 24, 2024**  
Called to Order: 6:35pm

**Attendance:**

Steering Committee Present: Carter Bascom, Emma “EB” Brandt, Jesse Carlson, Phoebe Howe, Jared Liu, Anne-Laure “AL” Razat, Lawrence “Stroker” Rogovin, Doug Shaffer, Kimberly “Schroeder” Steward, Bethany “Benny” Taylor, Gerry Whiting

Steering Committee Absent: Al Kamman, Deirdre Vander Schaff

Guests: Bill Barrett (phone), Emily Benson, Ethan Daly, Brian Post, Ray Welch, Alex Ziko  
Quorum established

**Secretary’s Report (Jared)**

Minutes. There were no additional edits to either of the minutes.

*Action: Gerry made a motion to accept the minutes from the 6/11/24 or 8/16/24 meeting, Stroker seconded, unanimously approved*

There was a request for re-instatement of a membership that was revoked. The Committee discussed how to proceed with this and made the following motion:

*Action: Jared made a motion that Stroker is approved to convey that not enough time has passed, and that there may not be an exact timeline for when the committee will consider re-instatement. For now, boundaries have been set, and there will not be consideration for re-instatement for at least one year, at which time we will assess what the individual can say about their growth and ability to make amends. In the meantime, we encourage them to work with their clinical team. EB seconded, unanimously approved.*

**Treasurer’s Report (AL)**

In June, we covered \$1,500 for immediate road repairs, and Gervais subsequently paid back \$750 for his half. We have now paid an additional \$4,000 for further repairs, which are now paused until an agreement is reached with Gervais. More below under the Cabin Report.

We spent \$500 for T-shirts that were gifted to current hut croo.

AL won’t be at Fall Fest, but will make a deck for Jared to present in her place.

*Action: AL made a motion to donate \$100 to the Obs in memory of Guy Gossling (Honorary OH), Doug Shaffer seconded, unanimously approved.*

**Cabin Report (Emily & Stroker)**

Cabin use is down. Cabin passes and fees are down, and current croos this summer aren’t using the cabin as much.

Mike replaced some door handles, because doors were getting left open.

There has been a problem with people turning the propane on/off, and the handle broke off. First, for all future cabin visitors, the tank should not be turned off. Leave it on. White Mountain Oil and Propane came out and replaced tank with new T60, which is smaller, but will be fine.

People are otherwise leaving the cabin in great shape.

Emily will send a report to share out with minutes.

The Stetsons will be hosting Oktoberfest on Oct. 19.

New caretaker. Emily needs to step away, and is working with the cabin committee to figure out how to make this transition. Emily will be putting together a job description with hours, and welcomes interest.

Easement Agreement. Under adverse possession, we already have the right to park along Washburn Way. However, the committee thought it made sense to get an easement in writing regardless before Gervais' property comes up for sale later this winter or spring. Mike Waddell was leading initial conversations with Gervais regarding the road repairs this summer. He and Emily have both stepped back, and Bill Oliver is in touch with Gervais to get the legal work done.

Road repairs. In addition to the \$1500 paid for the immediate repairs, we also paid \$4,000 because some of our new gravel on the road had to be moved for road access. At this point, work is paused, though, until we can resolve the agreement with Gervais. In addition to a permanent fix to the road, we need to install a swale to the north of the bridge to divert water in the future. This needs to happen before the next storm, or water could also wash out the bridge. It is not recommended to drive a low-lying vehicle up the road given how much loose and heavy gravel is at the top. This may cause some issue for delivering winter firewood, but the road is otherwise passable to our cabin.

### **OH Ambassador Program (Phoebe)**

Things went fine this summer. For the future, Phoebe thinks we should ask the ambassadors to send pictures and a report so we can convey that information to the Committee. In addition, Bethany encourages us to rethink for the future how we can improve this so that ambassadors have a consistent message and current crews receive it similarly and well.

Since Phoebe is rotating off the committee, we are looking for someone to take this on. It will be announced at Fallfest, posted in the fall Tator and on social media, and whoever takes this over will work with huts management to frame this out.

### **Fallfest (Phoebe)**

At Pinkham this year, as we know. Unfortunately, the conference room was double-booked. So our meeting will be in the dining room. Ethan is coordinating a T-shirt display. *Stroker is coordinating a panel of women who were pioneers in the huts to deliver the evening presentation.* Gerry will do the toast to absent friends. Bethany or EB will give a huts update. Jesse will lead a hike to Square Ledge or Tucks. Phoebe is willing to fill-in as a presenter for anyone needing that. Use this link to insert slides for your section of the presentation:

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/16yxpx0qdDeBYcJk\\_MwfjuZDybl8c\\_RkJyqJkNsH6nqQ/](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/16yxpx0qdDeBYcJk_MwfjuZDybl8c_RkJyqJkNsH6nqQ/)

The reservation information is on the website and Facebook, and the communications committee will talk about a targeted email going out soon about Fallfest.

*Action: Jared made a motion for Honorary member designations for Nancy Ritger, Larry Garland, and Skip Spadaccini, Schroeder second, unanimously approved.*

- Ethan will talk to Larry. Benny will talk to Skip. Stroker will talk to Nancy. We will pay for their & a guest's dinner if they will at Fallfest.

### **Ossipee Music Festival (Stroker)**

None

### **2025 Steering Committee Nominations (Phoebe, Ethan, Jared)**

There will be 1-2 slots available this year; Stroker will follow-up with everyone the committee to confirm. We intend to nominate Bill Oliver for one of them, and we will also need to renominate Stroker, Schroeder, and Gerry for another term.

Two slots: Bill Oliver

### **Joe Dodge Award Nominations (Stroker, Benny)**

Nominations will be October-November, committee meets in November, and decisions should be finalized by December. As soon as Benny has the nomination link, it will be circulated to the committee.

### **Merch (Brian)**

Things going well. Schroeder asks for aprons to come back.

### **Website (Schroeder)**

Some additional moderation needed to tamp down the spam this summer.

### **Hut System (Benny & EB)**

Fall is a great time to be in the backcountry, and they have had the smoothest transition ever for fall caretaking. They have over 25 strong applications for 6 winter caretaking positions. Sadie joined the team as the Assistant Field Supervisor. Parker joined as Education Coordinator, and has taken on a huts library project that may ask folks to make donations for a specific book list.

### **Trails (Bill)**

None

### **Resuscitator (EB & Ethan)**

Ethan has been conducting interviews with our three honorary members for articles that will be in the upcoming issue. He is also doing some research on farming, and plans a future article on OH who are in farming. The editors are aiming to send the issue at the beginning of October, preceded by the proofreading to be done Schroeder and Bill. EB and Ethan are currently co-editors, and EB intends to step down from the position at the end of 2025. Kudos to the two of them for how strong the Resuscitator is!

### **New & Other Bidness (Stroker)**

#### **Next Steering Committee Meeting:**

11/19/24, 6:30pm ET

URL: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3105879688?pwd=bW1NQXnNUZPaURCdi9EdXBtM3hkQT09>

Or Phone: 929-205-6099, Meeting Number: 3105879688#, Passcode: 780291#

Adjourned: 8:22pm