

**OHA Steering Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes, April 8, 2025**  
Called to Order: 6:37pm

**Attendance:**

Steering Committee Present: Emma "EB" Brandt, Jesse Carlson, Jared Liu, Bill Oliver, Anne-Laure "AL" Razat, Lawrence "Stroker" Rogovin, Doug Shaffer, Kimberly "Schroeder" Steward, Bethany "Benny" Taylor, Gerry Whiting

Steering Committee Absent: Carter Bascom, Al Kamman, Deirdre Vander Schaff

Guests: Josh Alper, Bill Barrett (phone), Emily Benson, Stephen Neubert, Brian Post, Richard Stetson, Chris Thayer, Heather Wingate, Mark Zakutansky  
Quorum established

**Secretary's Report (Jared)**

There were no edits to the 1/7/25 minutes.

*Action: Bill Oliver made a motion to accept the minutes from the 1/7/25 meeting, Gerry seconded, unanimously approved.*

**Treasurer's Report (AL)**

A Vanguard account has now been setup. The next step requires an official letter from TD Bank to link the accounts. After that, AL will move the \$120K that the Steering Committee previously authorized, keeping \$10K in a TD Bank money market account to write checks. The minimum amount to write checks from Vanguard is \$250.

These are our current holdings:

Checking: \$119,187

Money Market (TD 0.05%): \$10,019

July 7, 2025 (3.78%) - \$16,208

Nov 1, 2025 (3.54%) - \$6082

Dec 20 2025 (3.54%) - \$4404

Just in mailed dues payments for 2025, we have received \$3090 from 67 members, 5 of which were \$100+ donations.

AL switched jobs and no longer works for EY. As a result, she can now consult on financial decisions.

*Action: Bill Oliver made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, Jared seconded, unanimously approved.*

**Cabin Report (Emily and Bill Oliver)**

Cabin usage is down dramatically which is why we're seeing a drop in revenue on that line. The good news is that we have much firewood! Schroeder suggested that the decline might be due to OH who had young kids now graduating those kids to college and no longer using the cabin as much. We'll continue to monitor.

Spring Reunion and Work Weekend (5/17) is 9-2 and hosted by Emily Benson, Dawson Winch, and Heather Wingate. Chores will include cleaning out the woodsheds, removal and cleaning of storm windows, general spring clean-up of any winter debris inside and outside around the cabin. BYOB and

bring an appetizer/snack to share with the grillables that will be served. This is the same day as Dave Wilson's Memorial Service at PNC at 1pm, so we may have to cut things short and then resume them later in the day. Do not go to the Shannon Door on 5/16, as is the tradition, because another group has the venue booked that night. Schroeder suggests Big Day Brewing in Gorham, which is actually owned by former AMC folks.

Neighboring Land: Bill spoke to Gervais, who has accepted Mike's proposal that we will absorb the cost of repairs in exchange for formalizing our easement, right of first refusal, and a few other points. Gervais did ask where the pipe for water would be, and we may re-label the upper area as the firewood drop-off. We believe this is a good deal for both parties, and that it would immediately appreciate Gervais' property and help him get it ready to sell. Nothing has been signed yet, though, and the timeline and final costs are on hold until that.

Gervais is also talking with a broker, and expects to list the property for sale this spring. Bill asked him to tell us before listing, giving the OHA the right of first refusal. Gervais is amenable to this, but Bill will follow-up in a week or two to see where things are.

### **Gala (EB and Benny)**

We're good! Ethan Daly currently at Zealand and will come out the woods to speak to huts crew.

### **AMC 150<sup>th</sup> (Chris, Mark, Benny)**

The AMC has 3 goals in this campaign... to build pride, awareness, and fundraising. A major facet of this will be an Outdoor Relay that will span 1500 miles from VA to ME, wherein a 150<sup>th</sup> banner will be carried, passed hand-to-hand across hiking, paddling, cycling, and more. Trip leaders will adopt legs of the journey. The timeline is being finalized and merch will be ready by Dec. 2025. See the interactive map here: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/cab990a5dd46439b9eedf1eaf54df25>

The stops are synced up to show off AMC facilities, innovations, the concert series at HiC, and more, as well as partners from the Forest Society, Obs, Wildcast, and more, and the AMC is inviting input for how OH want to be involved. For now, the Cabin will be blocked on 8/1/26 and 8/2/26, which is when the banner will tentatively come through PNC. And, regardless, the Cabin will get a commemorative banner.

Some options discussed included:

- The banner will come through Pinkham around 8/1/26 and 8/2/26, and could come down the road to the OHA and Harvard Cabins. Parking was raised as a concern, but we could still do a tour of the cabin as a side option, and Emily volunteered to work on a cabin host committee.
- Send a representative of every OH generation to PNC for a ceremony and speaking role.
- Sponsor the banner to be hiked along one of the sections in the Whites such as Greenleaf to Galehead or another leg, although we should think about the weather and terrain (the banner must stay on schedule!), and there might be some training required to be a trip leader.
- Be a guest at a location where the banner will be passing through.
- Think about other partners who we want to include in our engagement such as Trail Crew.

If the OHA wants to request a specific leg, we should try to lock this in by 4/17 when the journey opens more broadly for others to claim a segment. We'll assemble a smaller committee of folks to answer this question if possible by April 17, as well as propose recommendations back to the Steering Committee in June. Meanwhile, Mark will send some framing questions to Jared, who will pass these along to the group to consider.

### **Fallfest (Jared and Stroker)**

Jared spoke to Kevin Smith and John Darak at PNC to confirm Nov. 1 at PNC.

Honorary Member nominees were discussed.

*Action: Bill Oliver made a motion that James Wrigley and Jim Nealon be named Honorary Members at the 2025 Annual Meeting. Emily seconded. Unanimously approved.*

### **2025 Openings/2026 Officers (Stroker)**

- Open Committee Assignments:
  - Fallfest Planner: Jared will keep holding until someone else steps forward. Deirdre or Heather may be interested. Stroker will put Heather in touch with Phoebe.
  - Trails Coordinator: Bill will keep holding until someone else steps forward.
  - Ambassador Program Coordinator: Jen Granducci may be interested; Bill will ask her to reach out about this. Stroker requested that Jen include Bill Barrett and a TBD of someone involved in huts now to be the committee that works on this. It doesn't have to be resolved by this summer, but would be great to see it revived by next year.
  - Nominating Committee: looking to formalize this and have the committee start earlier in the year, Heather Harland Wingate and Miranda Fisher expressed interest in being nominated.

EB will run a general post in the Tator that we're looking for volunteers.

### **Merch (Brian)**

Going great. We have made \$313 in profit at Printful for the past 6 months.

### **Website & Social Media (Schroeder, Brian)**

Going great. Brian would love to start cross-training someone on cabin reservations and merch fulfillment.

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

Heather will lead the group that opens Lakes for the 10<sup>th</sup> year in a row. She underscored that her group is excited to get going! Other team teams are also set to begin in just a few weeks. Come for caretaking season, or come see the huts in June. Hopefully you got in on the \$99 deal!

For summer croo, there are 33 returning and 17 new. Things are going so well that fall hiring is already underway. The huts admin team is now fully staffed with Bethany, EB, Sadie, and Parker! On the downside, we're seeing some complications at the federal level with trails and signage, and waiting for future actions on public lands and permitting. Stay in touch with your Members of Congress to advocate for these lands and spaces!

### **Trails (Bill Barrett)**

Last summer we did a good job on the Hutmen's Trail, but our efforts on the Hall's Ledge Trail may have fallen short. (There was only one known maintenance day on it, and this was in the Fall.) Anyone who can check it out early in 2025 should do so, and send a report to Bill Barrett. Bill won't be at Spring Reunion because he'll be at his high school reunion. Jesse will lead a work project on the Hutmen's Trail. We're also hoping that the OBP work will continue this summer, but it's TBD dependent on federal funds.

### **Resuscitator (EB)**

The spring issue is nearly finished. Schroeder and Bill are reviewing final edits. Schroeder sent labels to Josh for printed ones, and she will hold onto a few copies for anyone else.

**New & Other Bidness (Stroker)**

2025 Calendar: 6/10, 9/9, 11/18

Spring Reunion 5/17, Fallfest 11/1

**Next Steering Committee Meeting:**

6/10/25, 6:30pm ET

URL: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3105879688?pwd=bW1NQXNNUZPaURCd9EdXBtM3hkQT09>

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

Adjourned: 8:15pm