

**OHA Steering Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes, November 19, 2024**  
Called to Order: 6:32pm

**Attendance:**

Steering Committee Present: Emma “EB” Brandt, Jesse Carlson, Jared Liu, Bill Oliver (phone), 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, Phoebe Howe, Brian Post  
Quorum established

**Secretary’s Report (Jared)**

Minutes. Emailed edits to the 9/24/24 minutes were highlighted for members. Minutes from 11/2/24 will be formally approved at the 2025 Annual Meeting, but are submitted to the Steering Committee for their approval now.

*Action: Gerry made a motion to accept the minutes from the 9/24/24 or 11/2/24 meeting, AL seconded, unanimously approved*

**Treasurer’s Report (AL)**

2024 Budget high level:

- Income down because Lifetime membership down this year compared to last year
- Expenses: road washout bumped expenses up but we’d otherwise be lower this year.

2025 Budget Highlights:

- AMC Donation: The Steering Committee voted to continue the \$300 annual donation, and may add a tribute note in honor of a past friend.  
*Action: All in favor except for Gerry.*
- Cabin Check-up: add \$600 as a stipend for the caretaker (Emily volunteers for \$0 but we might need to pay someone going forward)
- Fallfest: add \$1,000 to cover honored guests’ dinner and overnight stay. OHA will bear this cost instead of passing onto attendees.
- Picture Project: This project will require time, modest tech skills, and the ability to post on the Facebook page to source information. Phoebe offered to be a point of contact, but thinks someone else should take this on. Added \$150 for a stipend here. The balance sheet will also be designated as having \$1815 in restricted funds for the photo project (from 2021-2024 donations). When funds are spent for the photo project, it will be taken from these restricted funds.
- Road Work: \$11,000 budgeted

*Action: EB made a motion to accept the 2025 proposed budget, Schroeder seconded, unanimously approved.*

### **Cabin Report (Emily & Stroker)**

The cabin report was provided in the pre-meeting packet. Two things to highlight:

- The firewood is completely delivered. Mike brought it in with his tractor.
- There is some OHA memorabilia that was cleaned out of the huts and now at the cabin. Many of these are relics and have names, but they cannot be absorbed at the cabin.

*Action: EB, Benny, and Emily are authorized to review these items, and to be in touch with the OH involved for reclamation. If they want them, they will pay for shipping and handling.*

Bill Oliver hopes to meet with Gervais this week to further clarify and possibly sign a road agreement.

Brian will pilot the cabin fast-pass idea. This will involve individuals signing a set of tight conditions.

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

If you're interested in this, schedule time to meet with Benny and Phoebe to rethink how this will work. It's OK we skip a year.

### **Fallfest (Phoebe)**

Shout out to Maryann, the Pinkham manager, who did a great to fix some issues. Although the food ran out, the sentiment was that things worked well at Pinkham. The meeting room was crowded, and we'll need a way to get a better headcount in the future.

Also discussed moving the event to another venue like Tuckerman's Brewery or Big Day Brewing, which is owned by Jason Hunter and Kara White, both former CC. The conversation ranged to consider alcohol with lodging on-site, menu vs. outside catering, acoustics, and more.

### **Oktoberfest (Gerry)**

Oktoberfest is not attracting younger OH. The Stetson's understand the need to diversify more and are on-board to do more outreach with help from the OHA. Bill also suggests moving the event to be earlier in the month.

### **2026 Officer Nominations (Stroker)**

Looking for volunteers in several areas to step up to be chair, ambassador program, photo project, cabin caretaker, Fallfest, trails, and more.

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

The deadline is Nov. 30, and Benny will send more information by email. If the OHA is going to support one nomination, we only need to submit one nomination.

### **Merch (Brian)**

Added aprons. Let Brian know if there is more you would like.

If we want to do recurring payments, it will cost \$90/year for the software that allows this. There are also considerations for how funds come into WooCommerce vs. Stripe.

**Hut System (Benny & EB)**

Had a wonderfully calm and uneventful full-service season.

Now down to 3 huts open with an amazing core of cohesive caretakers.

They have an 80% confirmation from the next season of caretakers, and are gearing up to recruit returners in Sep. 2025!

Working on getting a second assistant huts manager so that they can do more field visits.

**Trails (Bill)**

Both trails are thought to be in generally good shape. However, Hall's Ledge did not receive very much maintenance this summer, and Stroker reported that he had heard about minor problems higher up on the trail. Bill will get an update from Allen Doyle and/or Gary Newfield. Stroker will provide their contact info. The Hutmen's Trail did get adequate attention, and in August was fully cleared, but Stroker reported some recent blowdowns that will need to be attended to, probably in the Spring. We would like to get more people out on both trails. Trails work is one part of maintaining our 501c3 status, along with maintaining a database of White Mountain history for scholars and journalists, support for the huts (which serve the public), and more. EB will run a notice in the Tator seeking anyone who wants to help oversee our trails work.

**Resuscitator (EB)**

Fall issue was a smash, which is mostly Ethan! In 2025, EB would like to transfer to be a Member at Large, as opposed to the Resuscitator officer. He is working to recruit someone new to be his assistant. In January, will start soliciting for the spring meeting.

Josh Alper kindly takes on the expense of the print Tator and then charges the OHA for postage. Jared will ensure that Josh gets a donation receipt for his in-kind contribution.

Schroeder will set aside 10 extra copies for Benny and the huts.

**New & Other Bidness (Stroker)**

2025 Calendar: 1/7, 4/8, 6/10, 9/9, 11/18

Spring Reunion 5/17, Fallfest 11/1

Membership renewals will go out in December/January, and may hit your inbox before we meet next!

**Next Steering Committee Meeting:**

1/7/25, 6:30pm ET

URL: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3105879688?pwd=bW1NQXnNUZPaURCd9EdXBtM3hkQT09>

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

Adjourned: 8:32pm