

Quantico Orienteering Club, Inc.
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
July 9, 2025

Call to Order

President Don Fish called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Roll Call

President Don Fish	Vice President Dennis Doherty
Vice President Aaron Linville	Vice President Michael Newman
Vice President David & Reiko Rager	Treasurer David Levine
Secretary Beàtri Bennett	Volunteer/Social Outreach Sharmagh Yepremian (absent)
Membership Greg Lennon	Director at Large Matthew Knight
Mapping Ted Good	Director at Large Craig Shelden (absent)
Immediate Past President Jody Landers	

Others in attendance: Amy Loudon, Sidney Sachs, Jon Torrance and Keg Good.

I. Vote on Appointed and At-Large Board Positions

The meeting began with a vote on the appointed board members, including Greg Lennon as membership director, Ted Good as mapping director, Sharmagh Yepremian as publicity director, Craig Shelden as at-large director (Maryland), and Matthew Knight as at-large director (Virginia).

Jody Landers made a motion to approve the appointed members of the board. Aaron Linville seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion carried.

II. Officers & Directors Reports

— **Secretary report** – Beàtri Bennett

The meeting minutes for the 2 April 2025 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting.

Mike Newman made a motion to approve the 2 April meeting minutes. Jody Landers seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion carried.

— **Treasurer report** – David Levine

David Levine shared the treasurer's report with expenditures and revenue reconciled through 30 June 2025.

The report indicates a strong annual profit. Park fees and shelter rentals rose notably in the 2024–25 season; further research will be done to identify the cause. One Certificate of Deposit (CD) rolled over with an additional \$10K added from savings. CD interest for the year is estimated at \$5,500/\$5,600.

ACTION:

- David Levine will analyze data to identify the cause of increased park fees and shelter rentals.

Jody Landers made a motion to accept the financial report. Aaron Linville seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion carried.

— **Maryland VP report** – David and Reiko Rager

David and Reiko Rager provided updates on past and upcoming events.

Past events

Blockhouse Point – 147 starts. New venue; utilized shuttles from Bretton Woods parking. Received highly positive feedback on venue and courses

Lake Needwood – 150 starts

Swanson Road – 143 starts

- Event was moved to Saturday due to park availability.
- Massey Bartolini did an excellent job as first-time co-event director.

Chase at Patuxent – 173 starts. Great weather and good turnout for the picnic!

Additional Notes and Challenges

- *Cunningham Falls* – need a Course Designer. Don Fish suggested Michael Dickey if he has availability.
- *Gambrill* – need an Event Director, or else Ragers will direct the event.
- *Needwood* - Intro to O / Move up to Orange events.
 - Keg Good will review the Yellow and Orange courses. White courses can be used as is.
 - Identify strong teachers as instructors.
 - Courses should be shortened to account for the high volume of participant questions during the course. Courses should go off-trail but avoid overly difficult terrain that encourages returning to the trail.
 - Intro to O will be free.
 - Move up to Orange will have the normal QOC fee structure. Greg Lennon asked whether JROTC or large groups will be allowed to participate. A smaller group consisting of Don Fish, Greg Lennon, the VPs and Event Director(s) will discuss and make the final decision before the event.

- Survey for the 24-hour Rogaine is pending. As the 24-hour event will not be held this year, the survey will be prepared for timely distribution in advance of the 24-hour Rogaine. (A standard Rogaine event will be held in the upcoming season.)
- MD storage unit will be moving – David and Reiko Rager found a more suitable storage property very close to the current location.

ACTION:

- David Rager will co-ordinate with Michael Dickey to gather survey questions before the next 24-hour Rogaine.

— **Virginia VP report** – Aaron Linville and Dennis Doherty

Dennis Doherty provided updates on past and upcoming events as well as permitting.

Past events

Hemlock – 130 starts. There are concerns about parking and shelter costs; these will be monitored to ensure they remain sustainable for the club.

Quantico – 136 starts. Challenging courses; especially Green and Red with over 50% DNF. Don Fish reminded the group that Quantico is tough terrain with minimal trails and features.

Future events

- 27 events are planned for this upcoming season.
- A foot and biking O is planned at Lake Fairfax for November!
- For the first time since 2019, a Manassas event is planned for March. Don Fish applauded Dennis Doherty on the Manassas permit renewal!

Additional Notes and Challenges

- Average event participation (MD and VA) increased by 17 starts, boosting meet fee revenue by about \$10K.
- Shuttle expenses totaled ~\$10K last season.
- VA porta-john expenses decreased due to a new contractor.
- Storage management (from Matt Smith to Aaron Linville/Dennis Doherty) is in transition.
- Dennis Doherty created a chart showing profit/loss for each event. Gunston Hall showed a small loss due to the \$5/person venue fee. Previously covered by participants, the club absorbed the cost this season due to strong overall profits.
- Shuttle service will be scaled back in 2025/26 due to significant costs this past season but will remain free to participants.

— **Membership, Website, Registration, & Communication** – Greg Lennon

Membership remains stable at around 270 single and 270 family memberships.

Registration – quiet during the summer months.

Website & Groups.io E-Forum – Website rebuild has started, aiming for launch by the start of the season. Drupal 11 offers improved workflows, allowing course setters to enter course length and climb data via a form for VPs/Greg Lennon to review and approve. This will streamline the VP tasks but require training. Auto-updates and API integration will support future automation and data access by third-party tools.

Groups.io activity is mostly via the Summer Short Series (SSS) which is going well thanks to Peggy Dickison and Nadim Ahmed. The group currently has 110 members.

— **Publicity** – Sharmagh Yepremian

Post event meet-ups/Mappy Hour – will resume once the season starts in September. The volunteer happy hour at Caddie's in Bethesda had a strong turnout. Nearly all T-shirts have been distributed.

Social Media

Facebook – 2.5K followers (organic growth).

Instagram: 1.7K+ followers (organic growth).

— **Mapping** – Ted Good

Following the mapping clinic held earlier this year, Ted Good assigned 17 starter projects to participants, with the objective of developing the next generation of mappers.

Mapping updates –

Ted Good:

- *University of Maryland*. Prepared map for NRE.
- *Greenbelt*: Remapping Greenbelt (the backup park potentially for National Event Middle Distance).
- Converted *Anne Arundel* local park maps to current mapping standards. Re-field checked Severn Danza park to be used for Summer Series event and looked at new area added to the park.
- Updated *Sligo Creek* map (connects to Wheaton). Used for Summer Series.
- New Lidar Basemap of *Patapsco State Park*: Woodstock, Daniels, Hollofield, Pickall. Connects to Woodstock map which has Granite, Driver Road, McKeldin. The base map is still in development. Plan is to hand off field checking to new mappers
- Working on new LIDAR basemap for *Lake Accotink*. Mark Thompson will field check before the first event of the QOC season.
- Will work NRE maps during the next mapping season – *Bacon Ridge, UMD, Greenbelt*, (and Northwest Branch local map by Wheaton).

Sam Listwak:

- Remapped most *Seneca Creek* and working on drafting updates.

Nadim Ahmed:

- Finished *Blockhouse* map – was used for local event as well as Summer series.
- Largely finished with *Seneca* regional Park, Great Falls Virginia; was used for Summer series.
- Will work on updating *Wheaton* map next.

Mark Thompson:

- Trail updates to *Hemlock Overlook*.
- Field checking at *Lake Accotink*.

Aaron Linville:

- Will update Manassas map.

— **President** – Don Fish

Donation to the National Team and Support for QOC athletes attending 25th Summer Deaflympics in Tokyo

Last year, the club donated \$2,000 to the OUSA National Foot-O Team. This year's budget allocates \$2,500 for grants and donations. The board discussed potential support for three athletes attending the 25th Summer Deaf Olympics in Tokyo. Broader donation opportunities, such as advocacy for off-trail access in parks, were considered but deferred, with a decision to prioritize allocation of the remaining funds from last year's budget.

Some board members expressed concern about setting a precedent, noting that the Deaflympics, while important, is comparable to other Orienteering events such as the Masters and World Rogaine Championships. The conversation raised thoughtful questions about how the club determines eligibility for financial support, given the growing number of international competitions and related orienteering disciplines.

Jody made a motion to donate \$1,700 to the OUSA National Foot-O team and \$100 each to the three Summer Deaflympics team members. Greg Lennon seconded the motion.

Greg Lennon proposed an amendment to donate \$100 to each to the three Deaflympics team members and \$2,000 to the OUSA National Foot-O team. Jody Landers accepted the amendment.

Don Fish made a motion to table the proposed donation to the Deaflympics team to allow time for the development of a more comprehensive funding policy. Jody Landers seconded the motion. Greg Lennon expressed opposition, but no formal objections were raised. The motion to donate \$2,000 to the OUSA National Foot-O team carried.

ACTION:

- David Levine will send the \$2,000 donation payment to OUSA.

Discussion of Junior Training Program – The board discussed the potential re-establishment of a junior training program, noting that a club of QOC's size should maintain such a program. It was acknowledged that prior attempts to run the program using volunteers have been unsuccessful.

Don Fish proposed hiring a dedicated, paid instructor to conduct training sessions at 20 events per year, with the board responsible for selecting the event venues.

Greg Lennon noted the current lack of interested junior participants and recommended allocating funds to support juniors attending other existing training events.

Jon Torrance suggested that the club initially focuses on promoting the OUSA Youth Development Program to QOC's junior members.

The group agreed to further discuss a junior training program at future meetings.

ACTION:

- Don Fish will contact Tori Campbell to discuss details of the OUSA Youth Development Program.

Update on 2026 US Nationals planning – Sanctioning was approved but OUSA approval is pending due to issues with the Bowie map not meeting standards. Nadim Ahmed and Dave Linthicum will update the map to bring it closer to IOF standards and meet with Jon Campbell to resolve the map issues.

Greenbelt had been selected as a backup venue due to the Bowie area's susceptibility to flooding; however, its availability is now uncertain. Mike Newman reported that the park manager was surprised to learn of past orienteering events at the site and stated that off-trail activity is not permitted. (QOC has held orienteering events at Greenbelt for approximately 3 decades!)

Discussions with Greenbelt continue and the planning committee will select a different backup venue if needed.

Logistics at the MARC train station have been finalized. Advanced courses will feature a remote start, with a shuttle service to transport advanced course participants from the MARC train station to the north parking lot at Bowie.

Parker Nevenglosky is being suggested as the logistics director with Michael Dickey as his advisor.

A course consultant assignment is still pending.

The event schedule includes sprints at the University of Maryland on Friday, a middle-distance race at Bowie State on Saturday (pending map approval), and a long-distance race at Bacon Ridge on Sunday, with logistics and permits generally falling into place except for the Saturday location.

III. Other Business

— Changes in Park Procedure

Mike Newman informed the board that, beginning this year, all Maryland state parks use requests must be routed through senior parks management and the State Attorney General's office. This new requirement may present challenges at Patapsco State Park. Additionally, due to on-going budget constraints in Maryland, state parks will be more stringent in collecting individual use fees.

The board will consider options for managing fee collection at Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Parks. Potential approaches include incorporating the park fee into the event registration process or assigning a volunteer at the park entrance to verify payment from participants who do not possess an annual or Golden Age pass.

— 2025/26 Operating Budget

David Levine presented the proposed operating budget, and the group discussed the various line items including dues, donations, interest, merchandise sales, and administrative expenses.

Don Fish suggested dividing the 'Grants and Donations' budget line into two separate lines - 'Grants' for national athletes and 'Donations' for OUSA - and increasing the total allocation to \$3,000.

Greg Lennon reported that the contract to re-build the website was successfully re-negotiated, allowing for a significant budget reduction.

The 2026 NRE is accounted for under a separate budget.

Dennis Doherty raised a concern regarding the inclusion of the NRE budget within the Local Meet Expenses line, questioning whether that line should be reduced given the NRE has a separate budget. The board agreed to retain the current amount as a contingency, noting the rising costs associated with local meet expenses.

Greg Lennon made a motion to accept the budget as proposed with two amendments: (1) allocate \$3,000 to Grants and Donations, and (2) allocate \$4,000 to Volunteering, resulting in a net positive budget. Jody Landers seconded the motion.

Ted Good proposed an additional amendment to note the inclusion of the national event (NRE) budget within the Local Meet Expenses line, to aid in identifying any significant discrepancies between budgeted and actual amounts. Greg Lennon accepted the amendment. There were no objections. The motion carried.

There were no objections to the motion to approve the budget as proposed. The motion carried.

ACTION:

- David Levine will add a note to the 2025/26 budget to indicate that the Local Meet Expenses line within the budget includes national event (NRE) meet expenses.

— Keg Good reminded Vice Presidents of her availability for course consulting support.

IV. Adjourn

Jody Landers made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Greg Lennon seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:38pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 24 Sep 2025 @ 7 pm via Zoom.

Minutes submitted: Beàtri Bennett