**Bridge Committee Recommendations**

1. The Montreat Bridge Committee recommends that the Town Council take the following action immediately, preferably beginning during the 2016 Summer Season, and certainly before the Town Council takes any further action regarding the Texas Road Bridge Project:
2. Obtain a professional traffic study, with recommendations, regarding the Texas Road area between Welch Field and Lookout Road, and preferably of the entire town, which study should include and give consideration to the following factors, at a minimum:
3. Traffic volume and patterns at various times of the year, since traffic in Montreat can vary considerably depending on the time of year:
4. Safety of the children and pedestrians year-round, but especially during the summer season;
5. Safety and convenience of residents in the immediate vicinity of Texas Road;

iv. Convenient and expeditious access to the Texas Road area by first responders and other emergency vehicles and persons;

v. Convenient access to Montreat College and other areas on the east side of Flat Creek, including by large buses and vehicles; and

vi. Evacuation routes of town residents in the event of a major, large-scale crisis or emergency.

1. Develop an evacuation plan for the entire Town, in coordination with the other town institutions, to be publicized and used in the event of a major, large-scale crisis or emergency.
2. The Montreat Bridge Committee recommends that the Town Council not proceed any further with the current plans for the replacement of the Texas Road Bridge at its current site, which plans are known as Option B in the previously considered plans, and which plans were approved by the previous Town Council.
3. The Montreat Bridge Committee recommends that the Town Council not build any vehicular bridge at the site of the previous vehicular bridge on Texas Road.
4. The Montreat Bridge Committee recommends that the Town Council take all necessary steps to avoid repayment of funds previously provided for the bridge project by the federal government through the Municipal Bridge Program, in the approximate amount of $250,000.
5. The Montreat Bridge Committee recommends that the Town Council refurbish and maintain the current Texas Road Bridge as a pedestrian bridge, and that it also enhance and beautify the area surrounding the bridge. If keeping the current bridge as a pedestrian bridge should prove impractical or undesirable, then it is recommended that a new, smaller and attractive pedestrian bridge over the creek be constructed at that site.
6. The Montreat Bridge Committee recommends that the Town Council seriously consider and address the many concerns expressed by citizens regarding safety issues on Texas Road as they concern children and pedestrians using the various recreational, club and child care facilities located on and around Texas Road. For example, suggestions received from citizens include the following:
7. Make Texas Road in this area a pedestrian-only road during the busy summer season (except for residents living on Texas Road);
8. Create designated drop-off/pick-up points for children – either on Texas Road or at alternate non-Texas Road sites (this would require coordination with the Conference Center);
9. Make Texas Road in this area safer by installing speed bumps or other traffic calming features;
10. Construct a cul-de-sac in the vicinity of the old, closed bridge so that cars have an easy way to turn around on the now dead-end Texas Road;
11. Limit or prohibit parking on Texas Road in this area:
12. Prohibit trucks from using Texas Road Spur;
13. Limit Texas Road Spur to emergency use only.
14. The Montreat Bridge Committee recommends that the Town Council construct a new vehicular bridge at Tennessee road across Flat Creek to intersect with Texas Road, which bridge and location are described as Option D in the previously considered plans. It is strongly recommended that such bridge be designed and built primarily as a pedestrian-friendly bridge, in a pedestrian-friendly environment, with vehicular traffic complementing rather than controlling the design and construction. As part of this project, it is further recommended that significant modifications and improvements be made to Texas Road between Assembly Drive and the Walkup Building to enhance calming features, in order to significantly reduce the speed of vehicles and enhance the safety of all pedestrians using Texas Road, young and old. Such features could include, at a minimum – speed bumps, warning signs and one-way traffic.
15. The Montreat Bridge Committee recommends that the Town Council strongly consider and seriously explore the possibility of constructing the new bridge at Tennessee Road with local funds only and without the use of Municipal Bridge Program Funds, or any other federal funds.
16. If the Town Council determines that it is not feasible or fiscally responsible to build a new vehicular bridge at Tennessee Road with local funds only, then the Montreat Bridge Committee recommends that it build such a bridge as a participant in the Municipal Bridge Program.
17. The Montreat Bridge Committee recommends that the Town Council, following construction of a new bridge at Tennessee Road, designate Texas Road from Assembly Drive to the Walkup Building a one-way street – at least during the summer season, and perhaps year-round.