Board members present: Mayor Tim Helms

Commissioner Alice Lentz

Commissioner Tom Widmer

Commissioner Jane Alexander

Board members absent: Mayor Pro Tem Otto

Commissioner Kitty Fouche

Town staff present: Alex Carmichael, Town Administrator

Adrienne Isenhower, Zoning Administrator

Angie Murphy, Town Clerk

Nine members of the public were present. Mayor Helms called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., and led the group in a moment of silence.

**Agenda Approval**

Commissioner Alexander moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Lentz seconded and the motion carried 3/0.

**Public Forum**

Mr. Emory Underwood of 120 John Knox Road expressed his concerns about developing in the higher areas of Montreat while balancing stormwater controls.

Mrs. Ann Vinson of 136 Quillan Lane, chair of the Montreat Tree Board, shared some upcoming Tree Board Meetings. The February 25th meeting will host Terry Smith from Duke Energy. There have been some questions in the community about Duke Energy’s use of chemicals to control brush and under growth under power lines. There will be a time for people to learn and ask questions. There will be a Special Meeting on Tuesday, February 18th to discuss whether the committee plans on doing a tree inventory this year and possibly a grant application. This meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. in the Town Services Building.

Mrs. Martha Campbell of 149 Maryland Place, chair of the Montreat Landcare Committee, wished everyone a Happy Valentine’s Day and provided a bag of conversation hearts for the Staff and passed around a bowl of conversation hearts to encourage “sweet conversation”. Earlier that day Montreat Landcare held a working meeting to train and inform volunteers as Citizen Scientists. They participated in water sampling both in a bucket of water and outdoors. Mrs. Campbell also discussed an app developed by Montreat College Professor Josh Holbrook which allows you to take pictures and records locations automatically. The data goes directly to Professor Holbrook who is eager to get some results!

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Widmer moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Alexander seconded and the motion carried 3/0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

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Tim Helms, Mayor Angie Murphy, Town Clerk