

LANDCARE MEETING MINUTES
 Wednesday, March 5, 2025 9 AM
Montreat Town Hall

Call to Order

George Sawyer started the meeting at 9:04 a.m.

Moment of Silence

Call for Quorum

Six members present.

Entity	Name	Vote	Pres
MLC Chair, MPC(USA) Earth Ministry Team	George Sawyer	X	X
MLC Vice Chair, NWF Comm. Wildlife	Bill Neely	X	X
MLC Treasurer, Town Representative	Jean Norris	X	X
MLC Secretary, Town Representative	Kathy Putnam	X	X
MLC Town Commissioner	Jane Alexander	X	X
Cottagers Wilderness & Open Space	Beth Fountain		
Montreat College	Josh Holbrook		
Montreat College			
Montreat Conference Center (MCC/MRA)	Tracy Bailey	X	X
Montreat Conference Center (MCC/MRA)	Martha Todd Sloan		
MCC/MRA -Wilderness Committee	Jason Nanz		
Quorum: $10/2 + 1 = 6 = 6$ voting members	TOTAL	6	6

Adoption of Agenda

Approved by consent.

Adoption of February Minutes

Change heading from Agenda to Minutes. Approved with that edit.

Treasurer's Report

Landcare has received \$2,500 in donations recently. An expense of \$1,765 went to engineering fees for permits for Flat Creek Crossing project.

Jean reported that she will work with George and Town staff on the Landcare Committee's FY 25-26 budget request. She also said she will resume planning for grant accounting for Flat Creek Crossing with the site designer and Town staff.

Account Number & Label July 2024	Beginning balance	Incoming	Outgoing	Balance
26-80-3340-340 Contributions Landcare includes:	122,531.80 Pigeon River Fund	500.00		123,031.80
26-80-6190-330 Departmental supplies	-669.72			-669.72
10-80-6190-340 Town Contribution Carried Forward Headwaters Engineering - FCC Dreamhost web hosting - MLC Dreamhost web hosting – MLC	4,857.93		1,764.94 17.99 13.99	3,061.01

Public Comments

None.

Entity Reports

- Town of Montreat
Jane reported on the town hall meeting last month. The town is focused on prioritizing post-storm projects.
- MRA
Tracy reported that the College Conference was at the end of January. Assembly Inn is in good shape and the MRA continues working on building repairs. The MRA is demolishing Galax House and two lodges behind it. Roads Scholar programs have resumed recently.
- Montreat College
No report.
- Cottagers Wilderness and Open Space
No report. Bill said he's been working with Cottagers and other folks on Elizabeth's Path to see if it can be re-established. Jean asked to please look with an eye toward access as part of the Flat Creek Crossing project. Bill said there's more room on the other side of the creek; perhaps that's a place to take the path. Jane asked Bill to please provide notes to Barry Creaseman.
- Earth Ministry Team, Montreat Presbyterian Church
Things still on hold following the storm. The team made a \$500 contribution to Landcare.
- Bearwise
No report.

Team Reports

- Flat Creek Crossing
In October, a contract from Accessible Parks came to the town and town signed it, but Accessible Parks didn't countersign and send it back. Waiting to hear status.
- Community Wildlife Habitat
Bill discussed the possibility of the city contacting all homeowners to see if they would consider becoming certified. Kathy and George are signing up. Jane suggested giving a presentation at the city council meeting to get it into the minutes.

- Native Plant Sale and Arbor Day Celebration
No report.
- Firewise
No report.
- Bearwise
No report.
- Hemlock Restoration
George attended a hemlock program with AmeriCorps. Last week the college had a day where students survey treated trees to check on status. Bill mentioned ReLeaf for free trees.
- Children and Outdoors, Kids in Parks, and Eco-Explore
Discussion of getting pamphlet holders ordered and installed and the pamphlets restocked in the holders.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Tracy asked about the status of hellbenders. George discussed Josh's work with a study beyond Montreat on the status of them.

George and Jean attended a streambank workshop in Black Mountain last month. While interesting, he said it was not that useful for Montreat's forested streambanks as it was really focused toward farmers who had stream bank washed away.

Jean said it was clear that we have to work with multiple agencies for restoration permits. She also learned that we need to restore with deep rooted native plants – not rhododendron and laurels.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 2, 2025

Motion to Adjourn

Bill moved; George seconded.

Respectfully submitted: March 28, 2025

Kathy Putnam

Kathy Putnam, Secretary
Montreat Landcare Committee