

Tree Board
Minutes
6/10/2025
9:00 AM

Present: George Sawyer, Ed Kramer , Tyler Smith, Ann Vinson, Elizabeth Hamilton, Brad Hestir, Mason Blake,

Guest: Ashley Manson, Montreat Resident

Public works staff, Daniel Wiggs and Director Barry Creasmann were not able to attend today, since they are fully occupied with the storm recovery.

Moment of Silence,

Minutes Approved

Agenda Adopted

Ed Reminds that Minutes and agenda are regularly posted on website

Elizabeth Hamilton presented Hemlock Initiative activities and developments.

On April 29 Hemlock Treatment event involving Tree Board Members, Hemlock Restoration Initiative, (HRI) and Montreat Conference Center. See attached document with pictures, data about the event, costs as well as names of participants. Elizabeth Hamilton will also provide sign-up sheets, etc for documenting volunteer hours. A total of about 20 individuals participated, including two tree board members.

The board discussed the important distinction between trees on down property vs private property recognizing that while the town is not responsible for private trees, it is within the scope of Tree Board role to provide guidance to Montreat property owners concerning their responsibilities as well disseminating information that owners can use.

Ann Vinson reminded the board of information sheets that the board has had in the past. She will look to see what is still Available. Ann also raised the need for providing information to the community concerning dealing with damage from The Helene storm event in the fall for private trees.

Ashley Manson, a new Montreat resident, is a licensed pest control professional and is interested in working with the board on issues concerning of treating trees for pests, such as we find concerning hemlock restoration and other issues. During the meeting she provided information for example concerning safety when treating trees near water, use of emicals ground application of chemicals versus injection, danger of contamination of water, and other considerations.

Board Chair, Ed Kramer has been building a relationship with the Swannanoa Tree Alliance. (SVTA). This organization is interested in working on the issue of Chestnut recovery and we will likely have the opportunity to work with them on this issue in the future. Additionally, He has been promoting the Treasured Tree Program, an initiative in which the Swannanos Tree Alliance (SVTA) is also active with Treasured Trees. 15 trees have now been identified as Treasured. Trees with plaques attached. SVTA assisted in the initial selection of trees and the

April 2025 Hemlock Treatment

Montreat Tree Board with
Hemlock Restoration Initiative (HRI) and
Donors and Volunteers



Volunteers		Donors
Gill Campbell	Alison Radigan	Joe and Mary Standaert
Elizabeth Hamilton	Mark Radigan	Clay and Elizabeth Hamilton
Clay Hamilton	George Sawyer	Kendra Reade
Coleman Legerton	Joe Standaert	Shirley Mitchell
Chip Legerton	Mary Standaert	Perrin Wright
Ashley Marratt	Mary Hamilton	Clara Hare
	Hugh Irwin	

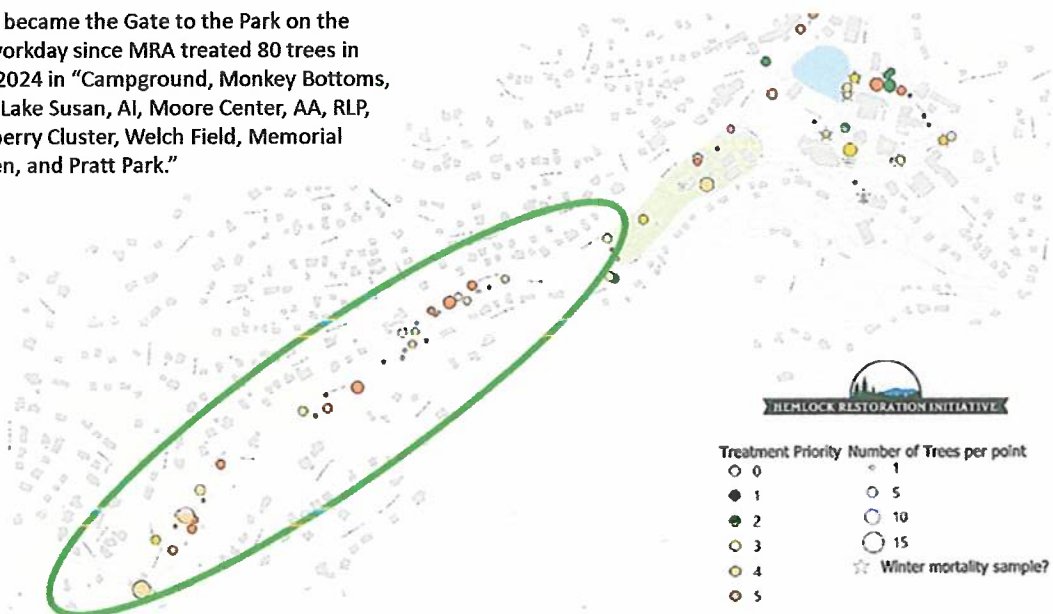
Hemlock Restoration Initiative Staff including

Margot Wallston, Director
Ayla Busch, Coordinator
Alicia Walsh, Coordinator

Summary

- Treated 124 hemlock trees
 - Trees are marked with tree paint and GPS referenced by HRI
 - 16 of the 124 trees were over 20" in diameter breast height (DBH)
 - The largest tree recorded as 41" in DBH.
 - Average tree of 12.2" in diameter..
 - Cumulative diameter inches treated was 1518.
- Total Project Cost - \$2,720 for HRI staff, travel, chemicals, misc.
- Town of Montreat / Tree Board/ Hemlock – Reimbursed HRI 50% of total cost = \$1,360
- Remaining Hemlock Account balance = \$190.00
- April 29 Treatment Day - 70.5 volunteer hours.
 - Montreat residents 57.5 hours plus friends of Montreat 13 hours
 - Plus measuring & marking on April 10 – 4 hours.
 - Plus initial March surveys - 4 hours.

Focus became the Gate to the Park on the one workday since MRA treated 80 trees in April 2024 in "Campground, Monkey Bottoms, Barn, Lake Susan, AI, Moore Center, AA, RLP, Raspberry Cluster, Welch Field, Memorial Garden, and Pratt Park."





Orientation covering the importance of hemlocks, pests, and safety.

Imidacloprid – less expensive, longer lasting – blue dots

Dinotefuran “Safari” - More expensive, faster acting – orange dots





Next steps

- Trunk injection of 15 town trees identified on April 29 - TBD
- Determine timing, location, and budget for additional treatments in coordination with MRA or others.
 - Centrally along Flat Creek upstream of field
 - Town right of ways
 - Rainbow Trail, on ridges, or conservation areas previously treated
- Staffing
 - Volunteers who were trained in April 2025 or new ones
 - Supervision by HRI staff or other licensed individuals
 - MRA staff, Town staff, or contracted.
- Outreach
 - Encourage homeowners to treat or to engage professionals to treat.
 - Education about hemlocks as a foundation species.

