

LANDCARE MEETING MINUTES  
 Wednesday, August 6, 2025 9 AM  
Montreat Town Hall

**Call to Order 9:01 a.m.**  
**Moment of Silence**  
**Call for Quorum**

Entity	Name	Vote	Pres
MLC Chair	George Sawyer		X
MLC Vice Chair, NWF Comm. Wildlife	Bill Neely		X
MLC Treasurer, Town Representative	Jean Norris		X
MLC Secretary, Town Representative	Kathy Putnam		X
MLC Town Commissioner	Jane Alexander		X
Cottagers Wilderness & Open Space	Beth Fountain		X
Montreat College	Josh Holbrook		
Montreat Conference Center (MCC/MRA)	Tracy Bailey		X
Montreat Conference Center (MCC/MRA)	Martha Todd Sloan		
MCC/MRA -Wilderness Committee	Jason Nanz		X
MPC(USA) Earth Ministry Team	Hal Demerest		
Quorum: $11/2 + 1 = 6.5 = 7$ voting members	TOTAL		

**Adoption of Agenda**

**Approval of May Minutes**

**Treasurer’s Report**

Jean reported that we had two \$100 donations. She said that the Flat Creek Crossing subcommittee would be reviewing grants because they anticipate starting work in fall.

-----Public Comments-----

**Entity Reports**

- Town of Montreat: Jane – The town is focused on infrastructure, with some road work beginning soon. She invited folks to the Summer Club picnic tonight, 6p at Gaither Hall. George added that many visitors this summer asked “what damage?” He suggested one of the biggest reasons was the improvement to Lake Susan and the area around it. Also, town staff did a great job on restoring so much so quickly after Helene.
- MRA: Jason – It was a successful summer season. All public hikes moved forward. Rangers did a lot of work. The Sanctuary and Julia Woodward Trails were opened by 7/4/25. There was a lot of tree clearing done this summer. The MRA is getting quotes from a contractor on the Graybeard trailhead bridge repair. They have donors and a grant in hand. Volunteer opportunities are still available. He thinks Graybeard Trail could be

open this fall. Starting 7/1, the MRA started asking donations for parking at Graybeard and Lookout. Bill Neely thanked Jason and the great crew of rangers he had this summer.

- Montreat College: No report
- Cottagers Wilderness and Open Space: Beth Fountain -- On July 19th, 2025 the Montreat Cottagers, Inc. discussed then voted by voice vote on whether to offer the Jane Holt Wilderness property to the Montreat Conference Center. This vote was postponed a year in order to consider the voting process and to consider other options by a few in the community. After an adequate discussion, the vote passed with only a handful (estimate of 4) of negative votes. The vote occurred in a very full upper Anderson room. The Cottagers are now working on re-writing the deed to prep it for offering it to the Montreat Conference Board later this fall.
- Earth Ministry: George -- there will be two programs this fall.

### **Team Reports**

- Flat Creek Crossing: Jean – No firm timelines on work starting, but we have money in hand. April Carter, project landscape designer, needs to redesign given the new, post-Helene survey. There will be some savings on the trail due to changes. The trail will be narrower (7 feet instead of 10), smaller picnic area, native garden grotto about same size. Filling from the storm improved the grade. Work likely to start this fall. Once the Special Use Permit is approved later this summer, April will look for a contractor.
- Community Wildlife Habitat: Bill – he got one designation and we need five total this year.
- Native Plant Sale
  - Subcommittee held its first meeting yesterday and will meet the last Tuesday of each month.
  - We will likely change the name of the event since the focus will be on Montreat's natural treasures and stewardship vs. native plant sale.
  - We're working on what the reimagined event will look like, but we're anticipating having information booths around Moore Field; perhaps a few vendors such as the strawberry sellers from last year and at least one native plant seller; and a few demonstration "field trips". These could include the Treasured Tree Walk, a demo on how to treat hemlocks with a visit to an area treated this year, a visit to a nearby certified Wildlife Habitat yard to show what made it certifiable, a demo along Flat Creek on the water monitoring project, and a visit to the site of Flat Creek Crossing.
  - Looking at dates of Apr. 25, Saturday after Earth Day; May 2, Saturday after May Day; and May 16.
  - Kathy will ask Tom Widmer to send out an email calling for more volunteers for the subcommittee.
- Firewise: No report, but George said there's a lot of debris around but the leaves are really popping and there will be lots of falling leaves this autumn.
- Bearwise: No report. Kathy asked if simple diagrams on how to properly latch trash can lids might be installed on area public cans.
- Hemlock Restoration: No report.
- Children and Outdoors, Kids in Parks, and Eco-Explore: Patti Pyle handed info to George. She will get program materials to George. He hopes that this program doesn't

die. Someone in Montreat needs to step up and take this on. Bill suggested putting the materials in the Nature Center so the brochure holders can be easily refilled.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Beth Fountain asked about the water monitoring project. She hasn't heard anything after volunteering.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Next meeting: September 3, 2025

Adjourn: Bill Neely moved; Beth Fountain second. 9:37 a.m.