

LANDCARE AGENDA  
 Wednesday, December 3, 2025 9 AM  
Montreat Town Hall

**Call to Order**  
**Moment of Silence**  
**Call for Quorum**

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

**Adoption of Agenda**  
**Approval of November Minutes**  
**Treasurer’s Report**

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

**Entity Reports**

- Town of Montreat
- MRA
- Montreat College
- Cottagers Wilderness and Open Space
- Earth Ministry

**Team Reports**

- Flat Creek Crossing
- Community Wildlife Habitat
- Landcare Festival
- Firewise
- Bearwise
- Hemlock Restoration
- Children and Outdoors, Kids in Parks, and Eco-Explore

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Next meeting: January 7, 2025

Adjourn

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

**Call to Order**  
**Moment of Silence**  
**Call for Quorum**

Entity	Name	Vote	Pres
MLC Chair	George Sawyer		x
MLC Vice Chair, NWF Comm. Wildlife	Bill Neely		
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		x
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 September Minutes** Putnam moved; Fountain 2<sup>nd</sup>; all approved

**Treasurer’s Report:** Jean Norris reported that Landcare has \$124,286, including \$95,000 in donations and \$34,000 in grants for the Flat Creek Crossing project. We have about \$6,600 that is specific to Landcare. received \$500 in donation from the Made in Montreat event. Running short on department supplies – little over \$27 for supplies. We made nearly \$1,100 in sales from Made in Montreat and received \$500 in donations for Flat Creek Crossing.

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

**Entity Reports**

- Town of Montreat: Jane Alexander reported that town keeps working on post-Helene recovery.
- MRA: Jason Nanz said there was a good turnout for the recent Wilderness Celebration. Moore Center donated 10% of earnings from that day to MRA’s Wilderness fund. This month applications for summer staff will be going out. Martha Todd Sloan reported that there will be additional shoring up on the Graybeard Trail bridge. The Harry Bryan bridge will take \$75,000 to repair and MRA is asking for donations that. The Graybeard bridge repair was funded by a grant. Also, MRA is doing plantings with native and non-invasives; they have a master plan for that project.
- Montreat College: No report.

- Cottagers Wilderness and Open Space: Beth Fountain said everyone is following the potential transfer of land from Cottagers to MRA. Hopefully, the board will vote at its November meeting.
- Earth Ministry: George said he and Nancy Midgette presented to the Montreat Church

### **Team Reports**

- Flat Creek Crossing: Jean Norris recapped Patti Pyle's recent update on the project. (That update is attached to these minutes.)
- Community Wildlife Habitat: No report.
- Landcare Festival: Kathy Putnam reported that name was slightly revised to Landcare Festival & Arbor Day – Celebrating Montreat's Native Flora & Fauna. The event is Saturday, April 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Moore Field. The subcommittee is busy contacting vendors and organizations to participate. Betty Douglas is doing the tea again. The subcommittee is looking for more volunteers and communications/publicity will start early next year.
- Firewise: Nancy Midgette sent the following report -- *I am working on the Firewise Renewal application. This was the year we were due for an evaluation from the NC state forester's Firewise office. It is mandated every five years. I applied for this visit in March. I was informed a month ago that there are inadequate personnel for visits this year. My contact assured me that she would make sure this problem did not impact our renewal. I will have all materials under my control submitted by mid-November and hope for the best!*
- Bearwise: No report.
- Hemlock Restoration: No report.
- Children and Outdoors, Kids in Parks, and Eco-Explore: No report.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Jason asked if we need to change meeting time to get Montreat College to meetings. George will talk to Josh Holbrook. Jean reminded that a change in meeting time would need to be a proposal to Town Council.

Next meeting: December 3, 2025

Adjourn: Jason Nanz moved; Kathy Putnam 2<sup>nd</sup>.



Kathy Putnam &lt;kputnam380@gmail.com&gt;

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## Montreat's Accessible Trail Project Update

1 message

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**Patti Pyle** <pyle.patti@gmail.com>  
To: Patti Pyle <pyle.patti@gmail.com>  
Bcc: kputnam380@gmail.com

Fri, Oct 31, 2025 at 10:20 PM

Dear Friends of Flat Creek Crossing, Montreat's First Accessible Trail,

Montreat Landcare's Flat Creek Crossing project has been delayed by more than a year due to Helene. Changes in the route and width of the creek have altered the landscape and forced some redesigning. Despite these challenges, we are moving forward and expect to begin removing sediment in November, weather permitting. Here is where we stand:

- A new survey of the site has been obtained to guide design modifications.
- The grants we won last year remain secure. Pigeon River Funding of \$34,065 is in hand and has been extended to April 30, 2026. NC Department of Parks and Recreation Accessible Parks Grant of \$255,923, available by reimbursement, extends through early 2027.
- Thanks to your generosity, donated funds of about \$95,000 are securely held and will provide for cash flow as we await reimbursements.
- Based on pre-Helene estimates, we remain about \$55,000 short of funding for the welcome center and accessible parking space(s).
- Trees and shrubs along the opposite bank are gone and need to be replaced. The site will now require more and larger sun-tolerant plantings, as well as many plant plugs to stabilize repairs to the bank.
- The foot bridge adjacent to the site washed away in the flood. Neither the Town nor MRA plan to fund replacement. We are exploring new grants and fundraising to build a fully accessible bridge near the Memorial Garden connecting to Elizabeth's Path and the Gate Trail. A flattened bank on the opposite side of the creek has created space for an additional picnic area.

The new challenges are opportunities. We hope you join us as we show that Montreat is more than resilient. Please direct your questions to Eric Nichols at [ericmontreat@gmail.com](mailto:ericmontreat@gmail.com). We will send another update in January with a progress report.

With deep gratitude for your help to allow *everyone* to get to the Creek,

Flat Creek Crossing Steering Committee

If you are inclined to make an end-of-year donation, use the website <https://townofmontreat.org/>, Easy Pay, Landcare Contributions, Purpose: Flat Creek Crossing. You may mail a check payable to Town of Montreat to PO Box 423, Montreat NC 28757, with Flat Creek Crossing on the memo line. Thank you!