

LANDCARE MEETING NOTES  
 Wednesday, December 3, 2025 9 AM  
Montreat Town Hall

**Call to Order**

**Moment of Silence**

**Call for Quorum:** Quorum was not met.

Entity	Name	Vote	Pres
MLC Chair	George Sawyer		
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		X
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 September Minutes**

**Treasurer’s Report:** Jean Norris -- We have about \$9,000 in donated income. A small amount goes to Landcare but most of that goes to the Flat Creek Crossing project.

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

**Entity Reports**

- Town of Montreat: Jane Alexander – Money is coming in from FEMA. Helene recovery continues.
- MRA
- Montreat College: Dr. Josh Holbrook – The college has started a new program, Science Research Scholars, which is an undergrad ecological research lab with students doing projects. This is scholarship program with the research focused on Montreat’s environment. The project last summer was a post-Helene hellbender assessment in Flat Creek. The work included hiking and snorkeling from Montreat to Flat Creek/Swannanoa. They found hellbenders survived in Flat Creek but not Swannanoa. Bill Neely: can we get breeding pairs to put back in the creek? Josh: feelers are out for that. Apparently portions of Flat Creek are going to be dewatered for restoration. On a separate note, Montreat College is trying to get Laura Alexelchik to join the Landcare Committee.

- Cottagers Wilderness and Open Space: Beth Fountain – transfer of deed from Cottagers to MRA. The MRA board met in November and things are going well on the transfer of the Jane Holt Wilderness deed from the Cottagers to the MRA. They are still communicating with the bear hunters club re: their insurance. There has always been a gentlemen’s agreement that we can hike on the Old Toll Road through the bear hunters’ property and they can hunt on Jane Holt property. We have an amicable relationship with them.
- Earth Ministry

### **Team Reports**

- Flat Creek Crossing: No update.
- Community Wildlife Habitat: Bill Neely – Five properties have become certified wildlife habitats he has the five people for this year’s certification.
- Landcare Festival: Planning continues for the April 11, 2026 event.
- Firewise: No report.
- Bearwise: No report.
- Hemlock Restoration: No report
- Children and Outdoors, Kids in Parks, and Eco-Explore: No report. Pamphlets are at Montreat College Library.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Next meeting: January 7, 2026

Adjourn