

LANDCARE MEETING MINUTES  
 Wednesday, May 6, 2026 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		X
MLC Treasurer, Town Representative	Jean Norris		X
MLC Secretary, Town Representative	Kathy Putnam		X
MLC Town Commissioner	Jane Alexander		
Cottagers Wilderness & Open Space	Beth Fountain		X
Montreat College	Josh Holbrook		X
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		8

**Adoption of Agenda**

**Approval of April Minutes**

**Treasurer’s Report:** Jean Norris – Landcare has approximately \$91,000. We have spent \$35,000 from the Pigeon River Fund for Flat Creek Crossing; \$6,600 has been set aside for website changes. We received \$1,458 from notecard and print sales. The Landcare Festival proceeds/expenses are being tallied. We may have as much as \$85,000 in revolving/reimbursement funds for ongoing FCC work.

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

Jake Feltenberger of outdoor recreation company Kompan was attending to learn about Helene restoration in Montreat.

**Entity Reports**

- Town of Montreat: No report
- MRA: Jason Nanz – I-beams arrived for Harry Bryan bridge. The new bridge will allow for EMT access. Summer staffers are coming soon. He is looking for community volunteers for shorter hikes during the summer. Martha Sloan said some people have been swimming in the lake and that’s not allowed.

- Montreat College: Josh Holbrook – He said the college needs to meet with MRA about brook trout. A recent survey showed brook trout are present above and near the Harry Bryan bridge while the bridge at Greybeard has rainbow trout. They'll be working with the Flat Creek 2040 group on potential next steps. He would like to get a letter of support for a grant for a herpetology summer camp. Jason moves approval of a letter of support; Bill Neely seconded. All approved.
- Cottagers Wilderness and Open Space: Beth Fountain – She reported that the transfer of the deed to the Jane Holt Wilderness Area to MRA is moving forward. They hope to have it done by the July meeting. Kathy reminded everyone of the planting near the gate Friday morning.
- Earth Ministry: No report.

### **Team Reports**

- Flat Creek Crossing: Jean Norris – Cottagers has offered support to FCC with a \$1,000 donation.
- Community Wildlife Habitat: Bill Neely – He collected 16 applications for Backyard Habitat Certification at the Landcare Festival; two have already been approved. He needs two more this year.
- Landcare Festival: Kathy Putnam – Thanked all those involved to make the event a success. Vendors fees brought in \$550, but expenses will be slightly above income. The committee member, who have agreed to serve another year, had a post-mortem meeting to review what worked well and what could be improved for the 2027 festival.
- Firewise: No report.
- BearWise: Change this team name to Bear Aware.
- Hemlock Restoration: George Sawyer – Maintenance program begins this spring. Treatment program is on hold. The Treasured Tree program is going to be open to residents who want to do a tree in their yard.
- Children and Outdoors, Kids in Parks, and Eco-Explore: No report. Jean Norris said some of the brochure holders are empty. George said he's talking with someone who might be interested in taking this on.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Town of Montreat greenspace planting idea: George Sawyer suggests that anyone who abuts green space get with Barry Creasman about how to maintain that area.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Next meeting: June 3, 2026

Adjourn at 9:52a.