

**Town of Montreat
Tree Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday September 8, 2026**

Attending - Ed Kramer, Elizabeth Hamilton, Tyler Smith, George Sawyer, Ann Vinson

- After welcome and minute of silence, July 14 Minutes approved.
- Chestnut Project: Board is coordinating fall planting of chestnuts with the American Chestnut Foundation. Planting will be on the former community garden site which has been cleared by Town Staff. Ed is arranging.
- NC Wildlife Federation Grant – Grant from NCWF for \$10,000 for trees is still pending. Follow up needed by Flat Creek Crossing and other interested parties.
- Treasured Trees – Fall effort to seek nominations being planned to raise awareness and raise funds. POC Ed.
- Documents:
 - Rules of Procedures New version drafted based on NC School of Government Publication. Discussion at next meeting after members' review. While still extensive, new version adds flexibility to the annual calendar, allows remote participation, and should include any legislative changes since last review of Rules. Approval for Rules is at the Board level, but Town Manager review before approval is recommended.
 - Tree Management Guide - Needs review per Tree Ordinance.
 - Tree Ordinance in Town of Montreat Ordinances – pending.
- Education
 - Participation at Cottagers July meeting was very successful with literature and interest from cottagers. Many Board members participated. Consensus to participate in Cottagers 2027 meeting. New banner and display board worked well.
 - MRA Wilderness Day on October 17.
 - Montreat Presbyterian Church Wednesday Session – Nov 18 Saving the Hemlocks.
 - Post Office static displays – only small items are allowed so planning needed.
- Inventory Trees across from the Barn will be next to be taken down – lost to Helene flooding and debris field.
- Tree Board Members – Bill Neely will be Landcare Representative to Tree Board beginning January 2027 when he replaces George Sawyere as Landcare Chair. Tyler and Elizabeth will need reappointment or replacement.
- Next meeting Oct 13, 2026 at 9:00 am in Town Hall. Adjourned at 10:10.