

LANDCARE MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, September 2, 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		X
Cottagers Wilderness & Open Space	Beth Fountain		
Montreat College	Josh Holbrook		X
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		8

Adoption of Agenda

Approval of August Minutes

Treasurer's Report: Jean Norris reported that as of end of July there was \$84,748.14 in the account. She is expecting \$40,000k back from the Parks & Recreation grant, which provided an 80% reimbursement rate for Flat Creek Crossing expenditures.

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

Entity Reports

- Town of Montreat: Jane Alexander – The town is still working through the process of getting funds to work on FEMA projects.
- MRA: Jason Nanz – Rangers did a lot of work this summer on the Greybeard switchbacks – 2.5 miles of trail. They also built stairs on Lookout Trail. The Harry Bryan bridge is complete. All trails are now open. The MRA is in the process of accepting the deed to the Jane Holt Wilderness Area from the Cottagers. There will be a series of guided hikes this fall and the MRA's Wilderness Day Celebration will be held on Oct. 17.
- Montreat College: Josh Holbrook – A student is doing a study on brook trout in Flat Creek, mapping Upper Flat Creek to show brook and rainbow trout locations. There was

a discussion regarding getting a second Montreat College representative to fill a vacancy on the Landcare Committee. Josh indicated he would reach out to the provost about getting a second college rep on the board.

- Cottagers Wilderness and Open Space: Beth Fountain – No report.
- Earth Ministry: Hal Demerest – No report.

Team Reports

- Flat Creek Crossing: Jean Norris – The project suffered a setback in not getting the \$600,000 grant. That means fundraising will need to cover the \$614,000 work that needs to be done. The Flat Creek Crossing project continues to move forward with the original work on the park site.
- Community Wildlife Habitat: Bill Neely – Montreat is recertified as a Community Wildlife Habitat.
- Landcare Festival: Kathy Putnam – The 2027 Landcare Festival date is April 10.
- Firewise: Nancy Midgette – No report. Bill Neely reminded everyone to report to Nancy the numbers of leaf bags filled.
- Bear Aware: Arrington Cox – No report.
- Hemlock Restoration: George Sawyer said they're getting ready to identify and treat trees.
- Children and Outdoors, Kids in Parks, and Eco-Explore: No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Next meeting: October 7, 2026

Adjourned at 9:39 a.m.