# Board of Commissioners – Public Forum Meeting
# October 9, 2025, 5:30 p.m.
## Meeting Minutes

**Board of Commissioners in Attendance**
Commissioner Jane Alexander
Commissioner Mason Blake
Commissioner Grant Dasher (arrived at 5:34 PM)
Mayor Pro Tem Kitty Fouche
Mayor Tim Helms
Commissioner Tom Widmer

**Board of Commissioners Absent:**
None

**Town Staff in Attendance:**
Savannah Parrish, Town Manager
Angie Murphy, Town Clerk
Jeff Eaton, Chief of Police
Brandon Freeman, Town Attorney

## Call to Order

Mayor Tim Helms called the October 9, 2025, Public Forum Meeting to order at approximately 5:30 PM.

## Welcome

Mayor Helms welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## Moment of Silence

Mayor Helms led a moment of silence.

## Agenda Adoption

Commissioner Kitty Fouche moved to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner JaneAlexander. The motion carried unanimously.

## Public Comments

### Elizabeth Hamilton (116 Maryland Place)

Mrs. Hamilton reported that 15 hemlock trees on town property had recently been treated for hemlock woolly adelgid. She explained that Ashley Manson arranged the treatment, which was performed by Ryan Franks from Appalachian Tree Care. Mr. Franks donated his tree injection services, which was ideal because the trees hung over creeks, and the injection method protected the waterways. Mrs. Hamilton noted that Arbor Jet donated the chemicals, and Montreat resident Joe Standaert assisted with geolocating the trees. The treated trees are marked with yellow dots and can be found in the memorial garden area and along Elizabeth's Path.

Mrs. Hamilton also announced a Treasure Tree Walk scheduled for October 29th at 3:30 PM, co-sponsored by the Tree Board, the Presbyterian Heritage Center, and the MRA. She explained that they have created a new map with a QR code that links additional information about each location. The walk will be led by Nancy Midgette and Jason Nanz, departing from the Nature Center.

Commissioner Alexander mentioned she had recently encountered someone attending a conference at Mountain Retreat Association on the "spirituality of trees" and requested a copy of the tree walk map to share. Mrs. Hamilton agreed to email it to Commissioner Alexander and noted they hope to make the map available online as well.

## Letta Jean Taylor (386 Oklahoma Road)

Mrs. Taylor expressed concerns about new stop signs that had been installed on Appalachian Way, particularly at the intersection of Appalachian Way and Oklahoma Road. She noted that in winter or when leaves are wet in fall, it's difficult to gain momentum to go up Oklahoma Road after coming to a complete stop. Commissioner Mason Blake commented that there is very little traffic at that intersection except for bear hunters. Town Manager Savannah Parrish stated that staff would review the situation and bring it back to the Board for consideration.

# Adjournment

> Mayor Pro Tem Fouche moved to adjourn the meeting until 6:00 PM when the regular meeting would begin, seconded by Commissioner Alexander. The motion carried unanimously.

The Public Forum Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:42 PM.

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Tim Helms, Mayor Angie Murphy, Town Clerk