



TOWN OF NEW CASTLE

200 South Greeley Avenue, Chappaqua, New York 10514 • (914) 238-7269 • Fax (914) 238-2537 • cpapes@mynewcastle.org

Number 20 of 2022
June 8, 2022

PRESS RELEASE

New Castle Becomes an Affiliate of Bee City USA

New Castle, NY; June 8, 2022—The New Castle Town Board unanimously voted on April 5, 2022 to become a Bee City USA®, joining many other cities and campuses across the country united in improving their landscapes for pollinators. The Town Board’s action is the culmination of months of effort by Gabriel Paley, a Horace Greeley High School Student, working with members of the New Castle Conservation Board and Town staff to accomplish this affiliation.

Bee City USA is an initiative of the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, a nonprofit organization based in Portland, Oregon, with offices across the country. Bee City USA’s mission is to galvanize communities to sustain pollinators by providing them with healthy habitat, rich in a variety of native plants and free of insecticides. Pollinators like bumble bees, sweat bees, mason bees, honey bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, flies, hummingbirds, and many others are responsible for the reproduction of almost ninety percent of the world's flowering plant species and one in every three bites of food we consume.

The New Castle Town Board’s vote was made after a presentation by Gabriel Paley to Town Board members.

Supervisor Lisa Katz said, “Our Town Board let it be known that we understand the importance of sustaining pollinators, and want to make the town more pollinator friendly. We are grateful to Gabriel for bringing the opportunity to our attention.”

“We are thrilled that the Town of New Castle shared our vision for New Castle to join the Bee City USA movement,” said Gabriel, who played a leading role in the campaign.

According to New Castle’s Planning Director, Sabrina Charney Hull, during the process of applying for the affiliation, a number of organizations were brought into the discussions including members of the Town’s Conservation Board, the New Castle Environmental Coordinator, Dennis Corelli and the Town’s Superintendent of Parks, Ike Kuzio.

“The program aspires to make people more PC—pollinator conscious, that is,” said Scott Hoffman Black, Xerces’ executive director. “If lots of individuals and communities begin planting native, pesticide-free flowering trees, shrubs and perennials, it will create large-scale change for many, many species of pollinators.” New Castle has also taken the Monarch Pledge to further our pollinator cause.

“How each city completes the steps to conserve pollinators is up to them,” said Bee City USA Coordinator Laura Rost. “To maintain their affiliation, each affiliate is expected to report on their achievements and celebrate being a Bee City USA affiliate every year.”

Each affiliate should hold public awareness activities; publicly acknowledge the commitment to the program through a standing committee, signage and web links; and prepare an annual report on habitat enhancement activities.

Bee City USA especially encourages school gardens and educational programs for children.

The Town Board has designated the Director of Planning as the Bee City USA Liaison, who will work with other Town Departments and Commissions such as the Sustainability Board, Beautification Advisory Board, Conservation Board and the Planning Board to ensure the program is implemented. The Town’s website: www.mynewcastle.org will host information as to how property owners can create pollinator gardens and will contain resources for more information. The more people and organizations involved, the sooner pollinator declines will be reversed.

For more information about New Castle’s Bee City USA program, contact Sabrina Charney Hull at sabrina@mynewcastle.org or (914)238-4723.

For more information about Bee City USA, visit <https://www.beecityusa.org/>

For more information about the Xerces Society, visit <https://xerces.org/>

For information about four simple ways to help pollinators, visit <https://xerces.org/bringbackthepollinators/>

BY THE ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF

THE TOWN OF NEW CASTLE

CHRISTINA PAPES, TOWN CLERK