

4. Resolution Designating the Town of New Castle as a Bee City USA Affiliate

Council Member Saland moved, seconded by Council Member Kassal, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the mission of BEE CITY USA is to galvanize communities to sustain pollinators, responsible for the reproduction of almost 90% of the world's flowering plant species, by providing them with healthy habitat, rich in a variety of native plants and free to nearly free of pesticides; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the more than 3,600 species of native bees in the United States, along with introduced honeybees, we have very diverse dietary choices rich in fruits, nuts, and vegetables; and

WHEREAS, bees and other pollinators have experienced population declines due to a combination of habitat loss, poor nutrition, pesticides (including insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides), parasites, diseases, and climate change; and

WHEREAS, pollinator-friendly communities can benefit local and regional economies through healthier ecosystems, increased vegetable and fruit crop yields, and increased demand for pollinator-friendly plant materials from local growers; and

WHEREAS, an ideal pollinator-friendly habitat includes the following: (A) is comprised of mostly native wildflowers, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees blooming in succession throughout the growing season to provide diverse and abundant nectar and pollen, since many wild pollinators prefer or depend on the native plants with which they co-adapted; (B) is free to nearly free of pesticides, as many pesticides can harm pollinators and/or their habitat; (C) is comprised of undisturbed spaces (leaf and brush piles, unmown fields or field margins, fallen trees and other dead wood) for nesting and overwintering; and (D) provides connectivity between habitat areas to support pollinator movement and resilience; and

WHEREAS, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a long-term approach to maintaining healthy landscapes and facilities that minimizes risks to people and the environment by: identifying and removing the causes of pest problems rather than only attacking the symptoms (the pests); employing pests' natural enemies along with cultural, mechanical, and physical controls when prevention is not enough; and using pesticides only when no other method is feasible or effective; and

WHEREAS, supporting pollinators fosters broad-based community engagement in environmental awareness and sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the Town of New Castle (the "Town") should be certified as a *BEE CITY USA* community in recognition of the Town's preservation of natural areas through careful land use planning, environmental conservation and designation of open space lands; and

WHEREAS, the Town has adopted legislation to allow planting of shrubbery in addition to trees to enhance the quality of mitigation plantings and natural habitats.

NOW, THEREFORE, in order to enhance understanding among local government staff and the public about the vital role that pollinators play and what each of us can do to sustain them, the Town chooses to support and encourage healthy pollinator habitat creation and enhancement, resolving as follows:

1. The Town Development Department is hereby designated as the BEE CITY USA sponsor.

- 2. The Director of Planning is hereby appointed the BEE CITY USA Liaison who will work with other Town Departments, such as the Department of Parks and Recreation as well as the Town’s Boards and Commissions such as the Sustainability Advisory Board, Beautification Advisory Board, Conservation Board, and the Planning Board to ensure that the program is implemented.
- 3. The Town shall:
 - a. **Celebration:** Host at least one educational event or pollinator habitat planting or restoration each year to showcase the Town’s commitment to raising awareness of pollinator conservation and expanding pollinator health and habitat.
 - b. **Publicity & Information:** Install and maintain at least one authorized BEE CITY USA street sign in a prominent location, and create and maintain a webpage on the Town’s website which includes, at minimum a copy of this resolution and links to the national BEE CITY USA website; contact information for your BEE CITY USA Liaison and Committee; reports of the pollinator-friendly activities the community has accomplished the previous year(s); and your recommended native plant species list and integrated pest management plan (explained below).
 - c. **Habitat:** Develop and implement a program to create or expand pollinator-friendly habitat on public and private land, which includes, but is not limited to, identifying and inventorying the Town’s real property that can be enhanced with pollinator-friendly plantings; creating a recommended locally native plant list to include wildflowers, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees and a list of local suppliers for those species; and, tracking (by square footage and/or acreage) annual area of pollinator habitat created or enhanced.
 - d. **Pollinator-Friendly Pest Management:** Create and adopt an integrated pest management (IPM) plan designed to prevent pest problems, reduce pesticide use, and expand the use of non-chemical pest management methods.
 - e. **Policy & Plans.** The Town’s Comprehensive Plan includes goals to protect and maintain the Town’s environmentally sensitive areas and natural resources; promote plant and animal biodiversity through the restoration, connection and protection of natural habitats; protect and manage open spaces and undeveloped lands; develop innovative outreach efforts to educate the public on the proper use and disposal of pesticides; and manage and reduce the impacts of dangerous and/or invasive plants and animals. The Town will also consider improvements to pest management policies and practices as they specifically relate to pollinator conservation and will identify appropriate locations for pollinator-friendly plantings and consider other appropriate measures in addition to acknowledging and committing to the BEE CITY USA designation as set forth herein.
 - f. **Renewal:** After completing the first calendar year as a BEE CITY USA affiliate, each February, the Town may apply to renew its BEE CITY USA designation on the forms provided by BEE CITY USA, which must include a report of the previous year’s BEE CITY USA activities, and paying the renewal fee.
 - g. **Species List:** The Conservation Board is directed to prepare and disseminate a list of plant species that are both preferred and discouraged.

VOTE	AYES
Supervisor Katz	X
Deputy Supervisor Tipp	X
Council Member Hildenbrand	X
Council Member Kassal	X
Council Member Saland	X

NAYS

APPROVED BY
TOWN BOARD

April 5, 2022

Christa Jones

Town Clerk