

Sustainability Committee Request to the Board of Selectmen to Approve the Attached Resolution
Declaring Greenwich a Pollinator Friendly Community

At its meeting on April 1, 2021, the Sustainability Committee unanimously approved submitting to the Board of Selectmen the attached resolution declaring Greenwich a Pollinator Friendly Community. We ask that the Board vote to approve this resolution at the scheduled April 22nd meeting during Earth Week.

Background:

Pollinator Pathway evolved out of the thinking of architect and designer, Sarah Bergmann, in Seattle, Washington in 2007 as a means of connecting green parts of the city with a pathway of native pollinator plants that provides a continuous corridor of pollinator habitat, thereby demonstrating that wildlife can co-exist within the human ecosystem. This idea has evolved into Pollinator Pathways within more than 200 towns in the Northeast U.S. that work to join the yards, gardens and properties of homeowners, Town parks and green spaces, open space, woodlands and rural areas with pollinator-friendly habitat, or pathways.

Thanks to the efforts of the Conservation Commission, Greenwich has a number of pollinator pathways already in the works. The Commission continues to develop a coordinated group of community organizations and activists committed to this effort. One can learn about participants and read more about what is happening in Greenwich at www.pollinator-pathway.org.

Earth Week represents the perfect time for the Town of Greenwich to publicly assert its support for pollinator habitat and the efforts the Town and residents are making. This resolution will coincide with the installation of a mural along the Post Road at Overlook Drive and across from Greenwich High School that will depict and celebrate Pollinator Pathway, highlighting the importance of pollinators and the benefits of protecting, preserving and enhancing their ecosystems.

Respectfully submitted,

Sustainability Committee

By: Jill Oberlander, Co-Chair

April 6, 2021

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING GREENWICH “A POLLINATOR FRIENDLY COMMUNITY”

WHEREAS, the Greenwich Board of Selectmen recognizes that bees and other pollinators are integral to a healthy and resilient ecosystem and a wide diversity of essential foods for human and wildlife consumption; and

WHEREAS, pollinator populations are in decline due to habitat loss, land development, land maintenance practices, pesticide use, pathogens and parasites; and

WHEREAS, alternative land management practices to mowed lawn are available that dramatically increase pollinator forage; and

WHEREAS, native plantings that provide high-quality forage for pollinators also provide benefits related to water quality treatment, stormwater management, carbon sequestration, noise and pollution reduction, erosion prevention and soil enhancement; and

WHEREAS, application of certain pesticides such as neonicotinoids and systemic herbicides that have unintended consequences against beneficial insects such as bees and other pollinators; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectman finds it is in the public interest and consistent with adopted Town policy for the Town to demonstrate its commitment to a safe and healthy community environment for people and pollinators.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Greenwich Board of Selectmen, that the Town of Greenwich is hereby declared a Pollinator-Friendly Community. As a Pollinator-Friendly Community, the Town will:

- promote healthy environments for pollinators including quality sources of nectar and pollen, clean water and habitat through existing programs and new opportunities; and

- pursue planting more pollinator forage in areas of town parks that currently exist as mowed turf grass; and
- consider adding natural areas with beneficial pollinator-friendly plants when designing new and renovated facilities; and
- minimize use of systemic pesticides, with emphasis on avoiding use of pesticides from the neonicotinoid family, on Town property to the extent practicable; and
- undertake best efforts to purchase plants that have not been pre-treated with pesticides; and
- undertake best efforts to utilize pollinator plantings as educational spaces; and
- communicate to Town residents, partner organizations, and businesses the importance of creating and maintaining a pollinator-friendly habitat; and
- maintain a list of native and naturalized pollinator-friendly plants for reference by the community and encourage private developers and landowners to incorporate pollinator-friendly plantings into required landscaping; and
- annually provide the Conservation Commission with an update on steps taken to create a more Pollinator-Friendly Greenwich.

THIS RESOLUTION IS ADOPTED BY THE GREENWICH BOARD OF SELECTMEN
ON April 22, 2021.