

TOWN OF KENT, CONNECTICUT

POLLINATOR PATHWAY RESOLUTION

The undersigned hereby certifies that they are the duly elected Town Clerk of the Town of Kent, which municipality is organized and existing under the laws of the State of Connecticut (the "Municipality"). The undersigned further certifies that the following is a true and accurate copy of a resolution adopted at a meeting of the of Board of Selectmen of Kent duly called and held on the 17th day of March, 2022, at which meeting a quorum was present and voting throughout.

WHEREAS, pollinators are in decline due to destruction and fragmentation of habitat from development, a lack of native plants due to an increase of invasive species, inappropriate and excessive use of pesticides, and a lawn culture that promotes turf grass monoculture which offers no benefits to pollinators and other wildlife;

WHEREAS, pollinator species such as bees, birds, butterflies and other pollinating insects are vital to maintaining healthy and diverse ecosystems;

WHEREAS, pollination is responsible for most of the food we eat;

WHEREAS, five native bee species are threatened, endangered or of special concern in Connecticut and a downward trend is seen in species diversity of bees, butterflies, birds, and many other animals;

WHEREAS, the Town of Kent is cognizant of the need for safe and healthy landscapes for its residents and habitat for important pollinators;

WHEREAS, recent scientific research supports the benefits of restoring and reconnecting isolated patches of habitat;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THE TOWN OF KENT, CONNECTICUT does hereby recognize and support the tenets of the Pollinator Pathway Northeast initiative, which are to encourage all residents and the municipality to:

- Refrain from broadcast spraying of herbicides as a vegetation-control measure in all municipal management (e.g., guardrails, roadsides, culverts, Town-owned lands). If herbicides are indicated as part of a treatment plan for invasive plants, use manual application limited to the minimum necessary to implement the treatment plan.
- Refrain from pesticide spraying of building foundations and the use of poisoned bait traps in Town-managed buildings except as required for public safety and limited to the minimum necessary to address the safety issue (e.g., wasp nest directly above frequently-used doorway).
- Encourage new plantings on municipal lands to include at least 70% native plants chosen to support pollinators and birds, and requiring minimal maintenance. Maintenance activities that disturb habitat including ground disturbance, deadheading, and leaf removal should be avoided. (see www.pollinator-pathway.org for helpful lists).

- Celebrate and implement the “No Mow May” concept by delaying mowing of municipally-managed lawn areas until June 1st or later. Support this initiative with signage explaining to residents why the town is participating in this worthy initiative.
- Follow best practices for garden clean up: clean up in the spring, allow plant heads to remain through winter to provide food for wildlife, keep plant stalks standing and leave snags of dead wood for native bees to nest, leave the leaves on flower beds through fall and winter to provide habitat, soil nourishment and protection for overwintering pollinators;
- Set a goal of decreasing the lawn area around Town-owned buildings by 10% this year, and replanting former lawn areas with native trees, shrubs and perennial non-woody plants.
- Protect and enrich soil by using organic yard-care practices and avoiding application of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides and treated mulch, and leave some areas of bare ground for ground-nesting bees;
- Create signage and communications to explain the Town’s strategy with respect to native plants and pollinators.

Given under my hand as Town Clerk of Kent this 6th day of April, 2022.

Signature: _____

Darlene Brady

Print Name: _____

Darlene Brady

Title: Town Clerk

