

A RESOLUTION of the Town of Lexington, Massachusetts
designating Lexington as a BEE CITY USA® affiliate.

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 honey bees, 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, ideal pollinator-friendly habitat:

- Provides diverse and abundant nectar and pollen from plants blooming in succession throughout the growing season;
- Provides undisturbed spaces (leaf and brush piles, unmown fields or field margins, fallen trees and other dead wood) for nesting and overwintering for wild pollinators;
- Provides water for drinking, nest-building, and butterfly puddling;
- Is free to nearly free of pesticides, as many pesticides can harm pollinators and/or their habitat;
- Is comprised of mostly native wildflowers, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees, since many wild pollinators prefer or depend on the native plants with which they co-adapted;
- 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, Lexington should be certified a *BEE CITY USA* community because:

- Lexington is and will be continue to be concerned with preserving the flora and fauna and natural habitats of our town
- Lexington recognizes the importance of biodiversity of all pollinators
- Lexington intends to be proactive in the promotion and preservation of pollinators

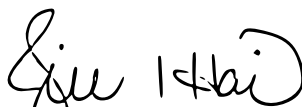
NOW, THEREFORE, in order to enhance understanding among local government staff and the public about the vital role that pollinators play and what each of us can do to sustain them, Lexington chooses to support and encourage healthy pollinator habitat creation and enhancement, resolving as follows:

1. The Lexington Conservation Commission is hereby designated as the BEE CITY USA sponsor.
2. The Conservation Stewardship Program Coordinator of the Lexington Conservation Commission is designated as the BEE CITY USA Liaison.

3. Facilitation of the Lexington Conservation Commission BEE CITY USA program is assigned to the Citizens for Lexington Conservation.
4. The Bee City is authorized to and shall:
 - a. **Celebration:** Host at least one educational event or pollinator habitat planting or restoration each year to showcase Lexington'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 Lexington 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, the following actions:
 - Identify and inventory Lexington real property that can be enhanced with pollinator-friendly plantings.
 - Create a recommended locally native plant list to include wildflowers, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees and a list of local suppliers for those species.
 - Track (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.
 - d. **Policy:** Establish, through the Lexington Open Space and Recreation Plan, a policy to acknowledge and commit to the BEE CITY USA designation.
 - e. **Plan Review:** Review the Principles and Policies for Management of Lexington Conservation Land, the Open Space and Recreation Plan and other relevant documents to: consider improvements to pest management policies and practices as they relate to pollinator conservation, identify appropriate locations for pollinator-friendly plantings, and consider other appropriate measures.
 - f. **Renewal:** After completing the first calendar year as a BEE CITY USA affiliate, each February, apply for renewal of the Lexington's BEE CITY USA designation following the format provided by BEE CITY USA, including a report of the previous year's BEE CITY USA activities, and paying the renewal fee based on Lexington's population.

ADOPTED by the Select Board of the Town of Lexington, MA this 19th day of October 2020.

Douglas M. Lucente, Chair




Jill I. Hai, Vice Chair



Joseph N. Pato



Suzanne L. Barry



Mark D. Sandeen