



Resolution:
Pollinator Protection for Municipal Property
in Huntington, Vermont

WHEREAS, this Resolution serves to galvanize our community to protect and sustain pollinators, responsible for the reproduction of almost 90% of the world's flowering plant species, by providing them with healthy habitat on municipal lands, rich in a variety of native plants and free to nearly free of pesticides; and

WHEREAS, supporting pollinators fosters the health and abundance of beneficial insects, birds, aquatic organisms, and other wildlife throughout the food web, as well as broad-based community engagement in environmental awareness, and

WHEREAS, thanks to the more than 300 species of native bees in Vermont, along with introduced honey bees, we have very diverse dietary choices rich in fruits, nuts, and vegetables; and

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

WHEREAS, ideal pollinator-friendly habitat: (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 pesticides can harm pollinators, beneficial insects, other wildlife and/or their habitat; (C) comprises undisturbed spaces such as leaf and brush piles, unmown fields or field margins, fallen trees and other dead wood and a few sandy bare spots for nesting and overwintering; and (D) provides connectivity between habitat areas to support aforementioned wildlife movement and resilience; and

WHEREAS, native bees, honey bee colonies and other pollinators have experienced alarmingly high population declines due to a combination of habitat loss, lack of forage, parasites, diseases, climate change, and pesticides including neonicotinoids which are the most widely used class of pesticides associated with lethal and sub-lethal effects on bees such as impaired foraging patterns, altered reproductive cycles, and impaired immune systems leading to increased susceptibility to pathogens; and

WHEREAS, a large and growing body of independent, peer-reviewed scientific studies demonstrate that existing neonicotinoid contamination in the environment can also adversely impact birds, aquatic organisms, and the ecosystems they support; and

WHEREAS, alternative methods of pest control are widely available, strengthen efforts to protect

pollinators, and are supported by extensive scientific research including: (A) Integrated Pest Management (IPM), designed to manage pests by addressing the underlying sources of the pest problems and prioritizing techniques that are least toxic to humans and the environment; and (B) additional methods detailed on the following websites:

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation: <https://www.xerces.org>;

Pollinator Partnership: <https://www.pollinator.org>;

Beyond Pesticides: <https://www.beyondpesticides.org>

and

WHEREAS, the use of pesticides may only occur when no other pest control method is feasible or effective in critical/emergency situations with the exception of neonicotinoid or other systemic pesticides.

THEREFORE, in order to enhance understanding among local municipal staff and the public about the vital role that pollinators play and what each of us can do to sustain them, Huntington resolves:

- A. To create, restore, and enhance safe and healthy pollinator habitat that:
 - 1) Provides forage and nesting resources.
 - 2) Is protected from harmful pesticide contamination;
 - 3) Includes appropriate, municipally owned locations for creating and managing habitat such as, parks, open spaces, roadsides, and around facilities as well as the Huntington Community Forest and the Huntington Town Forest.
 - 4) Facilitates habitat connectivity.
 - 5) Includes land management and mowing policies to allow wildflowers and other appropriate flowering forage species to bloom and flourish.
- B. That municipal properties and easements in Huntington shall be free or nearly free of pesticidal agents unless deemed necessary for natural resource protection. (These include but are not limited to: pesticides, herbicides, insecticides, termiticides, nematicides, molluscicides, piscicides, avicides, rodenticides, bactericides, and miticides.) Prohibited from use are all neonicotinoids and other systemic pesticides including those used in landscaping materials including treated plants and seeds.
- C. That the facilitation of this resolution be assigned to the Huntington Conservation Commission which is authorized to and may:
 - 1) Host at least one educational event and/or pollinator habitat planting or restoration each year to showcase Huntington's commitment to raising awareness of pollinator conservation, expand pollinator health and habitat, and encourage private land owners to create pesticide free pollinator habitat on their property.
 - 2) Include a diversity of productive flowering trees, shrubs, and forbs known to provide pollen and/or nectar to pollinators, with preference for ecologically appropriate native perennial species in newly planted or restored areas. Plantings should be designed to ensure that flowers are available throughout the growing season. Habitat should also include butterfly

host plants as well as pollinator nesting sites such as undisturbed soil, undisturbed foliage, and pithy-stemmed plants.

- 3) Request the Huntington Selectboard to notify and request all departments, contractors, and utility companies to: only apply a pesticide under emergency situations; not use products containing neonicotinoids or other systemic insecticides that are highly toxic to bees; not employ the service of certified applicators for neonicotinoid use; and refer to the resources listed above when seeking advice for removal of pest animals, insects, and/or plants.

D. This Pesticide Resolution will be reevaluated and updated as needed by the Huntington Conservation Commission annually in June.

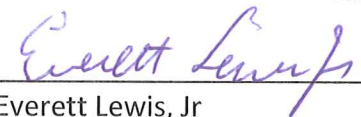
E. PRESENTED to the Huntington Selectboard by the Huntington Conservation Commission on Monday, June 6, 2022.

Approved by the Legislative Body – Monday, June 6, 2022


Dori Barton, Chair

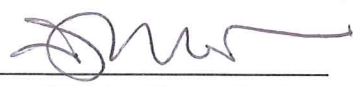

Landel Cochran, Vice-Chair


Larry Haskins, Jr


Everett Lewis, Jr


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Received for record this 7 day of ^{JULY}~~January~~, A.D., 2022


Heidi Racht, Town Clerk