

Resolution to make Monterey a Pollinator Friendly Community

The purpose of this advisory, non-binding resolution is to encourage appreciation of and inspire action in support of pollinators, including birds, bees, butterflies, moths and other beneficial insects, especially by prioritizing native plant species in our local environment. It aims to support a resilient and diverse natural environment in Monterey by creating synergies with efforts initiated by Great Barrington with its pollinator-friendly resolution of 2017 and several other towns in western Massachusetts (including Cummington, Egremont, North Adams, and Northampton).

Whereas bees, moths, butterflies and other pollinators are an essential component of a healthy ecosystem;

Whereas pollinators provide essential ecological services (including nutrition and habitat) to nurture webs of life;

Whereas locally grown fruits and vegetables, such as apples, blueberries, strawberries, squash, and tomatoes depend on pollinators;

Whereas most local bird species are reliant on vast quantities of caterpillars in order to thrive and reproduce;

Whereas many caterpillars and other beneficial insects have very specific feeding needs that can only be satisfied with the native plant species they have co-evolved with;

Whereas considerable scientific research has documented the steep decline of many insect species;

Whereas our local ecosystems are under tremendous threat from climate change, habitat loss and fragmentation, assaults by non-native invasive species, and the spread of pollutants, pathogens and parasites; and

Whereas extensive research has documented that systemic pesticides, as well as light pollution, are serious threats to a healthy environment;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Town Meeting of the Town of Monterey that the Town of Monterey is hereby declared a Pollinator-Friendly Community and that the town

encourages, to the extent possible, the adoption of policies and practices that support ecological health by prioritizing the planting of native species in landscaping, land management and restoration efforts; reducing the use of pesticides; and encouraging property owners, residents and town departments to adopt pollinator-friendly best practices, including:

- Avoiding the planting of cultivars and flowering plants that are treated with systemic insecticides
- Planting diverse grass mixes for lawns that include low flowering ground covers
- Reducing lawn mowing schedules so as to allow these flowering ground covers to bloom, thereby lowering overall maintenance costs;
- Where possible, replacing portions of grassed areas with low maintenance flowering perennial shrubs, wildflower corridors, and trees;
- Minimizing the harmful effects of light pollution; and
- Allowing fallen leaves to remain along property borders under trees and shrubs as overwintering sites for insects (and birds)

