

Town of Washington, Connecticut – Pollinator Pathway Resolution

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, native plants support pollinators and all wildlife in Washington and beyond by providing food and shelter; they also help prevent erosion, keep our waterways clean, restore soil health and improve the air we breathe;

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 Washington is cognizant of the need for safe and healthy landscapes for its residents and habitat for important pollinators; and

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

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

- (1) Reduce lawn size, provide predominantly native and pollinator-supporting plants and assure a sequence of blooms from early spring through fall (see www.pollinator-pathway.org for helpful lists);
- (2) Protect and enrich soil by using organic yard-care practices and avoiding application of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides (herbicides and insecticides) and treated mulch, and leave some areas of bare ground for ground-nesting bees;
- (3) 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 on flower beds through fall and winter to provide habitat, soil nourishment and protection for overwintering pollinators; and
- (4) Have a water feature, *e.g.*, bird bath, fountain or natural water source.

Approved on June 8, 2021 by the Washington Board of Selectmen:

James Brinton, First Selectman
Jay Hubelbank, Selectman
Dean Sarjeant, Selectman