

DRAFT

POLLINATOR PATHWAY PROCLAMATION RESOLUTION FOR WILTON, CT

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 Wilton 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 many of the fruits and vegetables 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, recent scientific research supports the benefits of restoring and reconnecting isolated patches of habitat;

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

WHEREAS, ~~this~~the Pollinator Pathway Proclamation~~Resolution~~ supports the Town of Wilton Sustainable CT Certification effort.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that First Selectwoman Lynne A Vanderslice of THE TOWN OF WILTON, CONNECTICUT does hereby

DRAFT

declare, recognize and support ~~this~~^{the} Pollinator Pathway Proclamation~~Resolution~~ and encourages all residents, commercial and municipal organizations to:

(1) Reduce lawn size by converting areas to predominantly native and pollinator-supporting plants which 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 avoid using pesticides and herbicides.

(3) Follow best practices for garden clean up: clean up in the spring rather than in fall, allow plant heads to remain through winter when possible, to provide food for wildlife; keep plant stalks standing and leave snags of dead wood and bare spots on the property 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; and

(4) Provide a source of clean water for wildlife, e.g., bird bath, fountain or natural water source