



Town of Woodbury Office of the First Selectman

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Town of Woodbury, 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; and

WHEREAS, pollinator species such as bees, birds, butterflies and other pollinating insects are vital to maintaining healthy and diverse ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, native plants support pollinators and all wildlife in Woodbury 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; and

WHEREAS, pollination is responsible for most of the food we eat; and

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; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Woodbury, Connecticut 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, THAT THE TOWN OF WOODBURY 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 cleanup: 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 bees to nest, '#leavetheleaves' the leaves on flower beds through fall and winter to provide habitat, oil nourishment and protection for overwintering pollinators; and
- 4) Have a water feature, e.g. bird bath, fountain or natural water source.

In Woodbury, Connecticut, on this 25 day of July, 2023

Barbara K. Perkinson

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First Selectman