

Resolution endorsing the protection of pollinators and enhancement of pollinator habitat

WHEREAS, Bees and other pollinators are a crucial component of a healthy ecosystem and a vital link in our food system, providing the pollination responsible for over three quarters of the world's plant species, and for one out of every three bites of food that we eat, and

WHEREAS, pollinator populations are in sharp decline due to human land use practices that are causing ongoing habitat loss and fragmentation, the expansion of pesticide use by consumers and professionals, and the spread of pathogens and parasites, and

WHEREAS, extensive research has documented that neonicotinoids and other systemic pesticides have been shown to cause illness and death to honey bees, native bees, butterflies, moths, other insect pollinators, and beneficial insects, and

WHEREAS, guidelines for land management best practice are available which allow residents, businesses, farms, and towns to manage their land in ways that increase pollinator forage and nest sites while decreasing maintenance costs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Meeting of the Town of Cummington that the Town of Cummington is hereby declared a Pollinator-Friendly Community and that the town encourages the adoption of policies and practices that support pollinator health by minimizing the use of insecticides.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Cummington will set an example by adopting the pollinator-friendly practices below and urges property owners, residents, town departments, and business owners to adopt pollinator-friendly practices including:

*Planting more pollinator-supporting forage on their property, emphasizing native plant species, and adopting organic or chemical-free lawn and landscaping practices;

*Avoiding the planting of flowering plants which are treated with systemic insecticides and avoiding the use of seeds coated with systemic neonicotinoids;

* Avoiding the use of insecticides, including systemic insecticides on their property.

The Town clerk is requested to send copies of this resolution to Governor Charlie Baker, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Commissioner John Lebeaux, State Senator Adam Hinds, and State Representative Stephen Kulik, or to take any other action relative thereto.