



CITY OF KEENE

R-2021-06

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand andTwenty-one.....

A RESOLUTIONRelating to Bee City USA.....

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Keene, as follows:

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WHEREAS: the mission of *BEE CITY USA* is to galvanize communities to sustain pollinators, responsible for the reproduction of 90% of the world’s wild plant species, by providing them with healthy habitat, rich in a variety of native plants and free to nearly free of pesticides; and

WHEREAS: insect pollinators, including wild native bees and European honey bees, are vital to a healthy ecosystem and agricultural production, worldwide; and

WHEREAS: bees and other pollinators have experienced population declines due to a combination of habitat loss, use of pesticides, and the spread of pests and diseases; and

WHEREAS: pollinator-friendly communities can benefit local and regional economies through healthier ecosystems, increased vegetable and fruit crop yields, and increased demand for pollinator-friendly plant materials from local nurseries and growers; and

WHEREAS: ideal pollinator-friendly habitat:

- Provides diverse and abundant nectar and pollen from plants blooming in succession throughout the growing season;
- Provides water for drinking, nest building, hive cooling, diluting stored honey, and butterfly puddling;
- Provides undisturbed spaces (leaf and brush piles, un-mowed fields or field margins, fallen trees and other dead wood) for nesting and overwintering for wild pollinators;
- Is pesticide free or has pesticide use carried out with least ill effects on pollinators;
- Is comprised of mostly, if not all native species of annual and perennial forbs, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees in landscapes because many wild pollinators prefer or depend on the native plants with which they co-adapted;
- Includes, where possible, designated pollinator zones in public spaces with signage to educate the public and build awareness; and

- Provides for safe and humane removal of honey bees when required.


WHEREAS: supporting pollinators fosters environmental awareness and sustainability, and increases interaction among community stewards, including commercial and backyard beekeepers, farmers, children, educators, University researchers, Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, plant nurseries, municipalities, neighborhoods, garden suppliers and clubs; and

WHEREAS: in order to enhance understand among City staff and City residents about the vital role that pollinators play and what each of us can do to sustain them, the City of Keene, New Hampshire chooses to support and encourage pollinator habitat creation and enhancement on both public and private land; and

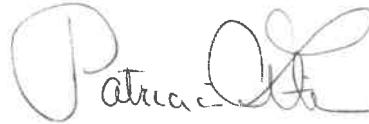
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council, the governing legislative body of the City of Keene, New Hampshire does hereby approve Resolution #XXXXXX accepting the City of Keene's designation as a "Bee City USA" community and committing to the standards of said designation as follows:

1. The City of Keene Conservation Commission is hereby designated as the *BEE CITY USA* sponsor.
2. The Community Development Director, City of Keene is designated as the *BEE CITY USA* liaison
3. Facilitation of the City of Keene *BEE CITY USA* program is assigned to the City of Keene Conservation Commission
4. The City of Keene Conservation Commission is authorized to and should:
 - a. Celebration: Annually celebrate National Pollinator Week (third full week of June), pollinator habitat plantings or restoration, proclamations or promotions that showcase the City of Keene's commitment to enhancing pollinator health and habitat
 - b. Publicity & Information: Install and maintain at least one authorized *BEE CITY USA* street sign in a prominent location, and create and maintain a webpage on the City of Keene website which includes, at a minimum, a copy of this resolution, links to the national *BEE CITY USA* website, contact information for the local government's *BEE CITY USA* liaison and contact information for the City of Keene Conservation Commission, and reports of the pollinator friendly activities the community has accomplished the previous year(s)
 - c. Habitat: Develop and implement a program to create or expand pollinator friendly habitat, which can include, but is not limited to:
 - i. Identification and inventory of the City of Keene real property that can be enhanced with pollinator friendly plantings

- ii. Creation of a recommended locally native species list to include forbs, grasses, vines and shrubs and trees and a list of local suppliers for those species
 - iii. Creation of a least toxic pesticide management plan
 - iv. Dissemination of informational and educational materials to the public
 - v. Tracking annual area of pollinator habitat created or enhanced by square footage and/or acreage
- d. Policy: Encourage, through the Open Spaces & Greenway Connections Chapter of the City of Keene's Master Plan, acknowledgement and commitment to the *BEE CITY USA* designation
 - e. Plan Review: Review the Land Stewardship Plan for specific city properties, and other relevant documents to review pesticide management policies and practices as they relate to pollinator conservation, identify appropriate locations for pollinator friendly plantings, and consider other appropriate measures
 - f. Renewal: After completing the first full year as a *BEE CITY USA* affiliate, each January, apply for renewal of the City of Keene's *BEE CITY USA* designation following the format provided by *BEE CITY USA*, including a report of the previous year's *BEE CITY USA* activities, and paying the renewal fee based on the City of Keene's population


George S. Hansel, Mayor

A true copy; Attest:


Patricia

City Clerk