

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING DESIGNATION OF CARRBORO
AS A “BEE CITY USA” TOWN**

WHEREAS, the goal of *BEE CITY USA* is to promote healthy, sustainable habitats and communities for bees and other pollinators; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the tremendous diversity of wild native bees, along with the honey bees that were brought here from Europe in the 1600s, we have very diverse dietary choices rich in fruits, nuts and vegetables: As reported by the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation “One in every three bites of food we eat is courtesy of insect pollination. Even our meat and milk trace back to insects that pollinate the alfalfa and other feed for beef cattle and cows”; and

WHEREAS, bees and other pollinators around the globe have experienced dramatic declines due to a combination of habitat loss, use of pesticides, and the spread of pests and diseases, with grave implications for the future health of flora and fauna; and

WHEREAS, cities and their residents have the opportunity to support bees and other pollinators on both public and private land; and

WHEREAS, supporting pollinators fosters environmental awareness and sustainability, and increases interactions among community stewards such as commercial and backyard beekeepers, farmers, children, educators, Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, plant nurseries, municipalities, neighborhoods, and garden suppliers and clubs; and

WHEREAS, ideal pollinator-friendly habitat:

- Provides diverse and abundant nectar and pollen from plants blooming in succession.
- Provides clean water for drinking, nest-building, cooling, diluting stored honey, and butterfly puddling.
- 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 wildflowers, shrubs, trees, and grasses because many native pollinators prefer or depend on the native plants with which they co-evolved.
- Includes, where possible, designated pollinator zones in public spaces with signage to educate the public and build awareness.
- Provides for safe and humane removal of bees when required.
- Provides undisturbed spaces (leaf and brush piles, un-mowed fields or field margins, fallen trees and other dead wood) for nesting and overwintering for native pollinators; and

WHEREAS, the economic benefits of (native and honey) bee-friendliness are:

- Healthy ecosystems. Insect pollinators are required for pollination and reproduction of about 85% of flowering plants globally that: 1) are vital for clean air and water;

2) provide food, fiber and shelter for people and wildlife; and 3) support the very insects that pollinate our crops and form the basis of food webs.

- Increased vegetable and fruit crop yields due to bee pollination.
- Increased habitat for natural enemies of crop pests and therefore reduced need for and costs associated with pesticides.
- Increased demand for pollinator-friendly plant materials from local nurseries and growers.
- Income earned by beekeepers and others through the sale of bee products, beekeeping equipment and supplies, and hive rentals for pollination; and, heightened prestige and premium asking prices for place-based honey, which enhances the visibility and reputation of its community of origin; and

WHEREAS, Carrboro should be a *BEE CITY USA* affiliate because:

- The goals of Bee City are consistent with Town adopted policies and goals such as “Respect for and protection of the natural environment should be integrated into the Town’s policies as a high priority in enriching the quality of life” (from Carrboro Vision 2020).
- Becoming a *BEE CITY USA* affiliate publicly announces Carrboro’s intention to support bees and other pollinators on both public and private land and provides a platform for outreach to the community.
- The Environmental Advisory Board supports designation and is willing to serve as the citizen’s group required by *BEE CITY USA*
- The Town has staff available to support designation.
- The Town is already pursuing the following actions that are consistent with *BEE CITY USA*:
 1. Planting pollinator species on Town maintained landscapes
 2. Supporting one of the premier Farmers Markets in the country that includes growers and apiarists committed to *BEE CITY USA* principles and is a natural location to hold an annual event during National Pollinator Week (the third week of June).
 3. Supporting the “Adopt-A-Spot” program which can be used to create new pollinator gardens

THEREFORE, in order to enhance understanding among municipal staff and the public about the vital role that pollinators play and what each of us can do to sustain them, THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF CARRBORO HEREBY RESOLVES that the Town agrees to meet the following standards required of all *BEE CITY USA* affiliates:

- 1) Staff will complete the application to Bee City USA, provide to the Mayor for review and signature, and submit the application to Bee City USA.
- 2) The Environmental Advisory Board and Town staff will work together to disseminate information on topics of pollinator-friendly habitat and policies to municipal departments, residents, businesses, and developers.

- 3) The Town will publicly acknowledge the community's commitment by agreeing to
 - a) install/maintain at least one authorized *BEE CITY USA* street sign in a prominent location, and
 - b) create/maintain links on appropriate pages of the Town's website which will include the Town's *BEE CITY USA* liaison(s), links to a PDF of this signed Resolution and the *BEE CITY USA* website, and summaries of the pollinator-friendly activities the community has undertaken or accomplished during the previous year(s).
- 4) The Town will commit to annually celebrate National Pollinator Week (third full week of June) or some other appropriate occasion through events, proclamations, and promotions that showcase the Town's commitment to being a *BEE CITY USA* affiliate.
- 5) The Town will commit to annually apply for renewal of the community's designation and submit a report of *BEE CITY USA* activities following the format provided by *BEE CITY USA*.