



TOWN OF CARRBORO

NORTH CAROLINA

MEMORANDUM

DELIVERED VIA: HAND MAIL FAX EMAIL

DATE: June 1, 2017

TO: Board of Aldermen
David Andrews, Town Manager

THRU: Patricia McGuire, Planning Director
Christina Moon, Planning Administrator

FROM: Randy Dodd, Environmental Planner

CC: Brandon Phillipie, Landscaping Supervisor
Kelly Blair, Groundskeeper II

RE: Summary of Bee City USA Activities

Summary

This memo provides a brief overview of the Town's participation in Bee City USA since joining in 2014. Highlights have included: "Pollinator Day" at the Carrboro Farmers Market (2015); a mural at Fire Station #1 (2016); screening several movies; support from the EAB with the maintenance of a pollinator garden, the movies, and outreach at Carrboro Day; posting of outreach resources on the Town's website; community projects including bee hives at Carrboro High and native bee kiosks from an Eagle Scout; and collaboration with other Bee City USA participants, including attendance at a Bee City USA training. Additional information is available in 2015 and 2016 annual reports.

Discussion

In the fall of 2014, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen adopted a resolution to apply to Bee City USA, and Carrboro became the 3rd Bee City USA community. The Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) took on the role of serving as a citizen's advisory group, a requirement for participation in Bee City USA. Subsequently, a number of activities were pursued to kick off the Town's participation. A Bee City USA sign was installed in front of Town Hall late in the fall of 2014. Activities were planned to coincide with National Pollinator Week, including "Pollinator Day" at the Carrboro Farmers Market, and screening the movie "More Than Honey" at the Carrboro Century Center. A "Bee City" page was created on the Town's website to help promote pollinator protection and habitat restoration.

A movie screening was pursued again in the summer of 2016, with “Queen of the Sun” being chosen. The “Bee City” page was updated on the Town’s website to help promote pollinator protection and habitat restoration. The Orange County Beekeepers Association sited bee hives at Carrboro High School. The Town, through the Economic and Community Development Director and Carrboro Tourism Development Authority, sponsored Matt Willey (a mural artist and founder of “The Good of the Hive”) to paint a mural at Fire Station #1 as part of an effort to paint 50,000 honeybees on murals across the country and beyond.

The Public Works Department has continued to promote and pursue healthy pollinator habitats in its own operations, and has also continued the Adopt-a-Planting Bed Program. The Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) adopted the pollinator garden at the corner of West Main Street and Hillsborough Road. Town staff have participated in training in Asheville and conference calls with the growing number of Bee City representatives across the country to share successes and challenges.

Most recently, Public Works staff have supported an Eagle Scout who built two native pollinator nesting kiosks, and are looking to install these kiosks in the near future. The EAB attended Carrboro Day and promoted the Town’s participation in Bee City USA. The movie “Hometown Habitat: Stories of Bringing Nature Home” has been scheduled for June 18th at the Century Center.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Aldermen receive this update.