



## TOWN OF CARRBORO

### Environmental Advisory Board

**301 West Main Street, Carrboro, North Carolina 27510**

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## R E C O M M E N D A T I O N

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2014**

Motion was made by Sinclair and seconded by Holder that the Environmental Advisory Board of the Town of Carrboro offers this

### **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, 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, plants 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;

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

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 EAB recommends to the Board of Aldermen that the Town agrees to meet the following standards required of all *BEE CITY USA* affiliates:

- 1) 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.

- 2) 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).
- 3) 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.
- 4) 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*.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE EAB RECOMMENDS THAT THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN ADOPT THIS RESOLUTION.

Associated Findings

The Environmental Advisory Board of the Town of Carrboro finds the proposed resolution is consistent with adopted plans and policies, such as the following provisions in Carrboro Vision 2020:

2.0 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

2.21 The Town should continued to require the preservation and maintenance of open space when land is developed, to enforce restraints on clear-cutting, and to require adequate buffers.

2.23 The Town encourages the planting of native plant species, as well as non-native species that are not invasive. Removal of invasive species is encouraged. The Town supports education on this topic and encourages the public to become aware of the list of invasive plant species found in Appendix E-17 of the Town of Carrboro Land Use Ordinance.

5.61 The Town should adopt incentives to help limit the conversion of farmland to developed uses that bridge the transition areas. These incentives should be designed to preserve small farms, farm co-ops, and organic farming within new conservation subdivisions and elsewhere.


VOTE:

AYES: Arnsberger, Sinclair, Holder

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Reddy, Rivins

NOES: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

For  (Chair) 9/4/2014 (Date)