



TOWN OF CARRBORO

NORTH CAROLINA

MEMORANDUM

DELIVERED VIA: ☐ HAND ☐ MAIL ☐ FAX ☒ EMAIL

DATE: September 28, 2014

TO: Board of Aldermen

Cc: David Andrews, Town Manager
Patricia McGuire, Planning Director
Christina Moon, Planning Administrator

FROM: Randy Dodd, Environmental Planner

RE: Bee City USA

Summary

This memo summarizes an opportunity for the Town to consider participation in Bee City USA, a program sponsored by a 501(c)3, the Center for Honeybee Research that is seeking to build a movement in support of pollinator species and habitat across America. The opportunity has been considered in collaboration with local beekeeper Marty Hanks (Just Bees Apiary) and the Environmental Advisory Board.

Discussion

For a new Town to become designated, Bee City USA would like to know that there is a commitment to assemble and disseminate information on topics of pollinator-friendly habitat by pursuing the following (with italicized indication of Town's ability to satisfy requirement).

- 1) Establish a Bee City USA committee or subcommittee devoted to pollinator conservation.
The EAB has volunteered to fulfill this role.
- 2) Develop a Bee City USA Resolution.
A draft is included in the agenda item.
- 3) Submit an Initial Application for Bee City USA designation.
Staff can do so upon adoption of the resolution.
- 4) Once designated annually celebrate being a Bee City USA designee with a Proclamation and public awareness activities.
Marty Hanks has offered to help with this, with a possibility of considering an event at the Farmers Market in June, 2015.
- 5) Publicly acknowledge your commitment through signage and web links.

Bee City provides the graphics and the Town is responsible for installing a sign. Staff are available to provide web information/links.

- 6) Annually report your activities to Bee City USA to renew your designation.

Staff can work with the EAB and others to fulfill this requirement.

Asheville became the inaugural Bee City USA community in June 2012, and Talent, Oregon, was designated the second community in August 2014. The White House issued a [Presidential Memorandum](#) “Creating a Federal Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators” in July, 2014. Seattle, WA and Portland, OR are examples of other cities that have their own similar programs/designations.

Staff have contacted Bee City USA to confirm requirements and details of the program, and they are supportive of receiving an application. More information about Bee City USA is available at <http://www.beecityusa.org/>.

The Town Code and Land Use Ordinance currently do not have provisions specific to beekeeping or encouraging pollinator gardens/habitats. The staff opinion is that noncommercial beekeeping is acceptable as an accessory use. In response to the Bee City USA consideration, the EAB and Planning staff have had recent conversations about the potential to amend planting requirements in Appendix E of the Land Use Ordinance to include a provision encouraging native pollinator plant species. A list of appropriate plants could be obtained through work of the Xerces Society for Insect Conservation, the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign, and/or the Cooperative Extension Service. Chatham County Cooperative Extension in particular has been actively promoting pollinator gardens and plants.

A resolution referred to the Board of Aldermen by the EAB and a draft resolution for the Board’s consideration are included. The draft for the Board’s consideration is identical to the EAB resolution with some additional language included that further articulates activities in Carrboro that are congruent with designation as a Bee City, such as an Integrated Pest Management policy and pollinator habitats as part of landscaping.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Aldermen consider the draft resolution and if in support, provide any desired direction including scope and details of a recognition event in June 2015.