THE TOWN OF
CLARKSBURG
111 River Road
Clarksburg, Massachusetts 01247
TOWN OFFICES (413) 663-7940

Mohawk Trail 100th Anniversary
Celebrating 100 years of adventure & culture in the Mohawk Trail Region

RESOLUTION OF THE SLECTBOARD OF THE TOWN OF CLARKSBURG

CLARKSBURG, MASSACHUSETTS 01247

"DECLARING CLARKSBURG A POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY AND ENCOURAGING RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES TO ADOPT POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY PRACTISES"

Whereas, pollinators are a necessary component of a healthy ecosystem and food production system, providing essential pollination of plants in order to grow fruits, vegetables and herbs

Whereas, pollinator populations are in sharp decline due to an ongoing loss of habitat as a result of human land use practices, coupled with the simultaneous large-scale expansion of pesticide use by homeowners, landscapers, property managers and farmers; and

Whereas, neonicotinoid and other systemic pesticides have been shown to cause illness and death to bee populations and other pollinators; and

Whereas, local food production is needed to improve the health and food security of Clarksburg Residents, recognizing that insect pollination is an essential component of local food production; and

Whereas, alternative land management practices are available that dramatically increase pollinator forage while decreasing maintenance costs; and

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Whereas, the monetary and social costs of maintaining pollinator-friendly landscapes can be less expensive than the costs associated with maintaining chemically-treated monocrop landscapes; and

Whereas, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts preempts any local governmental control to regulate any and all matters concerning the registration, regulation, labeling, distribution, sale, handling, use, application or disposal of pesticides; and

Whereas, the Clarksburg Selectboard respectfully requests a commitment of both Residents and Businesses to manage their land in a pollinator-friendly manner; and

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved by the Clarksburg Selectboard:

The Town of Clarksburg will refrain from the use of pesticides in the routine maintenance of Town Facilities unless there is a compelling public health issue (ie: West Nile Virus, Zeka Virus, Equine Encephalitis and the like). That, the Town of Clarksburg will actively support pollinator-friendly practices throughout the Community, will engage the Citizens of the Town of Clarksburg in an educational campaign highlighting both practices that protect and support pollinator health; and identify practices and products which have and do contribute to the decline of pollinator populations.

Be it further Resolved, that the Town of Clarksburg will advocate at both the State and Federal Level for increased authority, or local control, to address the non-agricultural use and application of neonicotinoid pesticides, and for other pollinator-friendly policies and practices with the goal of applying these same practices in a State-wide, consistent manner through both legislation and promulgation of appropriate Regulations by the Massachusetts Legislature and the Governor's Office.

This 9 Day of August 2017

Jeffrey Levanos, Selectboard Chair

Carlyle "Chip"Chesbro Jr., Selectboard First Vice Chair

Kimberly Goodell, Selectboard Second Vice Chair

Equal Opportunity Employer