

The Town of Sheffield Pollinator-Friendly Community Resolution.

The following Resolution is unanimously supported by the Sheffield Agricultural Commission.

RESOLUTION DECLARING THE TOWN OF SHEFFIELD TO BE A POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY AND ENCOURAGING RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES TO ADOPT POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY PRACTICES.

To see if the Town of Sheffield will vote to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, bees, butterflies, insects, birds, and other pollinators, are a necessary component of a healthy ecosystem and food system, providing essential pollination of plants to grow vegetables, herbs, and fruits; and

WHEREAS, local food production is needed to ensure the health and food security of Sheffield residents, and pollination is an essential component of local food production; and

WHEREAS, Over the past decade, populations of pollinators nationwide have been experiencing significant challenges in their ability to survive and flourish due to human land use practices, given the diversity of stressors affecting pollinators, there is a need to effectively evaluate, sustain and enhance their populations; and

WHEREAS, a Strategy to Promote the Health of Pollinators and improve the overall health of pollinator populations, with a set of voluntary guidelines that facilitate communication for consumer awareness using labels for treated plants, collaboration and recommendations of best management practices with regard to application and use of insecticides; and

WHEREAS, The Sheffield Agricultural Commission finds these actions to be in the public interest and would demonstrate the Town of Sheffield's commitment to a healthy environment for people, agriculture, and pollinators.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF SHEFFIELD:

That the Town of Sheffield be declared a Pollinator-Friendly Community. The Town encourages policies and practices that protect and support pollinator health.

- The Town of Sheffield promotes healthy environments including food sources, clean water, and habitat for pollinators through existing programs and new opportunities.
- The Town of Sheffield shall undertake best efforts to be an informed purchaser, to use pollinator friendly plantings favorable to pollinators, to include native plants with succession blooming, aiming for pollen and nectar sources for the full spectrum of pollinators throughout pollinator seasons, and encourage and allow citizens and residents to participate in pollinator programs.
- The Town of Sheffield will support the work of groups of MDAR, NRCS and UMASS promoting science based, practical efforts for pollinators, which offer common-sense solutions that work to limit harmful pesticides, with proper training and guidance on their usage, especially by those who are not professionals.
- The Sheffield Agricultural Commission will oversee and encourage actions of this resolution to include, public awareness and communication across departments.

- The Town of Sheffield will support its efforts to educate the broader community about the action it has taken, the importance of creating and maintaining pollinator-friendly habitat and encourage residents and businesses to use similar pollinator practices.

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMAN OF THE TOWN OF SHEFFIELD this 8th day of ~~May~~ July 2020

Informational links:

MDAR :

<https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2017/06/zw/pollinator-plan.pdf>

USDA NRCS:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/plantsanimals/pollinate/help/>

UMASS Extension:

<https://ag.umass.edu/resources/pollinators>