

A RESOLUTION
Declaring the Town of Orleans, Massachusetts
a Pollinator-Friendly Community

A non-binding resolution endorsing the protection of pollinators and enhancement of pollinator habitat.

WHEREAS, bees and other pollinators are a crucial component of a healthy ecosystem and a vital link in our food system, providing the pollination responsible for over three quarters of the world's plant species, and for one out of every three bites of food that we eat; and

WHEREAS, pollinator populations are in sharp decline due to human land use practices that are causing ongoing habitat loss and fragmentation, the expansion of pesticide use by consumers and professionals, the spread of pathogens and parasites, and global climate change; and

WHEREAS, extensive research has documented that neonicotinoids and other systemic pesticides have been shown to cause illness and death to honey bees, native bees, butterflies, moths, other insect pollinators, and beneficial insects; and

WHEREAS, the town of Orleans is cognizant of the need for safe and healthy landscapes for its residents and habitat for important pollinators;

WHEREAS, guidelines for land management best practices are available that allow residents, businesses, farms, towns, and land trusts to manage their land in ways that increase pollinator forage and nest sites while decreasing maintenance costs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by this Select Board of the Town of Orleans that Orleans is hereby declared a Pollinator-Friendly Community and that the town encourages the adoption of policies and practices that support pollinator health by minimizing the use of pesticides;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the town of Orleans will set an example by seeking to adopt the pollinator-friendly practices listed below on town-owned land, and encouraging property owners, residents, business owners, and land trusts to adopt pollinator-friendly practices on their properties that:

- * Plant more native plant species, especially those that provide forage for pollinators;
- * Avoid the use of insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides for aesthetics; and do not plant flowering plants treated with systemic insecticides or use seeds coated with systemic neonicotinoids;
- * Reduce area dedicated to managed turf lawns, converting this area to pollinator-friendly planting when possible; and adopt organic or chemical-free lawn and

landscaping practices, including allowing plant stalks, seed heads and fallen leaves and pine needles to remain through fall and winter, when possible, to provide habitat, food for birds, soil nourishment, and to give important protection needed by overwintering pollinators.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Select Board of Orleans shall cause of a copy of this resolution to be sent to Governor Charlie Baker, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Commissioner John Lebeaux, State Senator Julian Cyr, and State Representative Sarah K. Peake or to take any other action relative thereto.

Voted this Nineteenth Day of January 2022.