

***The Town of Great Barrington is the first in New England to pass a  
Pollinator-Friendly Community Resolution.***

*The following Resolution, unanimously supported by the Agricultural Commission and the  
Selectboard, was approved by Great Barrington Town Meeting Monday May 9, 2016*

**RESOLUTION DECLARING THE TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON  
TO BE A POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY**

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

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

WHEREAS, locally grown crops such as apples, blueberries, strawberries, squash and tomatoes depend on pollinators and thus are at risk; and

WHEREAS, extensive research has documented that neonicotinoid and other systemic insecticides cause illness and death to bees and pollinators; and

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Meeting of the Town of Great Barrington, Massachusetts, that the Town of Great Barrington is hereby declared a Pollinator-Friendly Community, and that the Town encourages adoption of policies and practices that protect and support pollinator health by minimizing the sale and use of insecticides.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Great Barrington urges all Great Barrington property owners, residents, businesses, institutions and neighborhoods to become more pollinator-friendly by adopting practices including:

- ♦ Committing to avoiding use of insecticides, including systemic insecticides on their property;
- ♦ Avoiding the planting of flowering plants which are treated with systemic insecticides;
- ♦ Planting more pollinator-supporting forage on their property, and adopting organic or chemical-free lawn and landscaping practices.

The Town Clerk is requested to send copies of this Resolution to Governor Charlie Baker, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Commissioner John Lebeaux, State Senator Benjamin B. Downing, and State Representative William Smitty Pignatelli, or to take any other action relative thereto.