

Resolution No. 2020-01

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING AND SUPPORTING
POLLINATORS IN THE TOWN OF BERTHOUD

WHEREAS, pollinators of all kinds, including native bees, wasps, butterflies, and European honey bees, are a critically important part of our agricultural and food systems; their pollination of a significant amount of our food supply is extremely important to food production and is valued at \$20 to \$30 billion annually in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, many of the trees and plants that beautify our landscapes and form key elements of our ecosystems rely on pollinators to propagate and to contribute to ecological services; and,

WHEREAS, the decline in the population of pollinators, including commercial European honeybees, wild bees, butterflies, and birds, as well as invertebrates in soil and water systems, is of serious concern; and,

WHEREAS, the loss of habitat and food supply for pollinators through the use of pesticides, development resulting in habitat loss and other negative environmental impacts are contributing to this decline; and,

WHEREAS, based on scientific studies and findings which indicate the inappropriate and unregulated use of pesticides pose unacceptable hazards to pollinators; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has banned the use of neonicotinoids on all 150 million acres of its National Wildlife Refuge System; and several U.S. cities and counties have taken steps to raise awareness of this issue and some have instituted bans on the municipal use of neonicotinoids; and,

WHEREAS, a large and growing body of independent, peer-reviewed scientific studies indicate that some of the most widely used classes of insecticides may adversely impact beneficial soil invertebrates and avian and aquatic organisms, contaminate water resources and soils, and translocate throughout all parts of plants contaminating the pollen and nectar that is gathered by pollinators; and,

WHEREAS, in addition, residential, agricultural, and commercial use of chemical pesticides on crops, home gardens, public parks, public grounds, and other local and municipal areas poses risks to pollinators and aquatic invertebrates, and their introduction into the environment is often unintentional and/or inadvertent, since labeling is not required for some treated materials; and,

WHEREAS, the use of hazardous and persistent insecticides is not absolutely necessary to create and maintain healthy landscapes, gardens, and open spaces when alternative practices and products may be available; and,

WHEREAS, there is increasing concern by the public regarding the use, misuse, and

presence of toxic chemicals, and growing community concern and desire to protect and support pollinators to ensure robust food production and natural ecosystems; and,

BE IT THEREFORE PROCLAIMED THAT:

The Town of Berthoud will strive to reduce and minimize all chemical pesticide use on Town lands and in Town buildings.

Further, the Town of Berthoud will seek to limit or eliminate neonicotinoid or other systemic insecticides on its Town rights of way, along watersheds and ditches, on public trees and landscapes or in its buildings, with consideration of both the necessity of treatment and of alternative treatments to achieve the necessary protection of those lands, trees, or landscapes.

The Town will strive to create a comprehensive pesticide use policy across all departments that will specify when the use of pesticides may be considered and will provide guidance on such use.

The Town will work to enhance safe and healthy pollinator forage habitat on Town lands, including revision of mowing policies where possible to allow wildflowers and other appropriate flowering species to flourish and feed pollinators.

The Town will continue to pursue means to facilitate the transition of Town owned agricultural lands to organic production and will encourage integrated pest management to be the normative practice for farmers leasing Town lands.

The Town will foster awareness of its policies to acquire landscaping materials, including plants, trees and seeds that have not been pre-treated with chemical pesticides.

The Town recognizes the importance of pollinators and will support and actively engage in efforts to educate the broader community about integrated pest management and the actions the Town is taking.

The Town will encourage businesses, schools, neighborhoods, households, municipalities, and other entities within the town, county, state, and federal governments to adopt pollinator policies similar to the Town of Berthoud's policies. This includes urging all parties, public and private, to reduce chemical pesticide application, especially systemic treatments such as neonicotinoids, and to create habitat that will support pollinators.

Staff will engage the public to share information about the work we are doing to protect and conserve pollinators in The Town of Berthoud.

NOW, the Board of Trustees do hereby declare June as Pollinator Appreciation Month in The Town of Berthoud, encouraging all residents to recognize and celebrate the important role pollinators play in our environment and actively work to support and

protect pollinators of all kinds in the Town of Berthoud.

Given under my hand in these free United States in the Town of Berthoud, on this 28th day of January 2020, and to which I have caused the Seal of the Town of Berthoud to be affixed and have made this proclamation public.

Town of Berthoud

By:

William Karspeck
William Karspeck, Mayor

Attest:

Heather
Town Clerk or Deputy Town Clerk



Official Seal