



**RESOLUTION NO. 20-05**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE MIDDLETOWN SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
RECOMMENDATION TO DESIGNATE  
THE TOWN OF MIDDLETOWN AS A BEE CITY USA® AFFILIATE**

WHEREAS, the mission of *BEE CITY USA* (an initiative of the Xerces Society) is to galvanize communities to sustain pollinators, responsible for the reproduction of almost 90% of the world's flowering plant species, by providing them with healthy habitat, rich in a variety of native plants and free to nearly free of pesticides; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the more than 3,600 species of native bees in the United States, along with introduced honey bees, we have very diverse dietary choices rich in fruits, nuts, and vegetables; and

WHEREAS, bees and other pollinators have experienced population declines due to a combination of habitat loss, poor nutrition, pesticides (including insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides), parasites, diseases, and climate change; and

WHEREAS, pollinator-friendly communities can benefit local and regional economies through healthier ecosystems, increased vegetable and fruit crop yields, and increased demand for pollinator-friendly plant materials from local growers; and

WHEREAS, ideal pollinator-friendly habitat (A) is comprised of mostly native wildflowers, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees blooming in succession throughout the growing season to provide diverse and abundant nectar and pollen, since many wild pollinators prefer or depend on the native plants with which they co-adapted; (B) is free to nearly free of pesticides, as many pesticides can harm pollinators and/or their habitat; (C) comprises undisturbed spaces (leaf and brush piles, unmown fields or field margins, fallen trees and other dead wood) for nesting and overwintering; and (D) provides connectivity between habitat areas to support pollinator movement and resilience; and

WHEREAS, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a long-term approach to maintaining healthy landscapes and facilities that minimizes risks to people and the environment by: identifying and removing the causes of pest problems rather than only attacking the symptoms (the pests); employing pests' natural enemies along with cultural, mechanical, and physical controls when prevention is not enough; and using pesticides only when no other method is feasible or effective; and

WHEREAS, supporting pollinators fosters broad-based community engagement in environmental awareness and sustainability; and

WHEREAS, Town of Middletown should be certified a *BEE CITY USA* community because the Burgess and Commissioners have recognized the importance of pollinators to the well-being of all in its Resolution 17-07 (November 13, 2017) which commits to:

- following best IPM practices;
  - educating the broader community about these actions and stress their importance;
  - urging all businesses, homeowners, and homeowner associations to avoid the purchase and application of pesticides and other products hazardous or lethal to pollinators;
  - discouraging the unnecessary cosmetic use of hazardous lawn and garden chemicals and instead encourage and support IPM Practices for control, including appropriate plant selection and maintenance;
  - reviewing the Town's mowing practices in order to raise grass to the IPM recommended 2.25 to 4" height in areas used for recreational purposes and raise grass to the legal 8" height in appropriate non-recreational areas;
  - managing Town properties effectively by adding fewer exotic non-native plants and installing more native perennial plants; identifying and dedicating potentially pollinator-friendly areas, continuing creating habitat by replacing unnecessary turf grass with trees, shrubs, sub-shrubs and herbaceous plants known to shelter pollinators; and leaving some areas with brush piles, bare earth patches and fallen trees so that native pollinators can nest;
  - reviewing the Town's bid solicitation documents, existing contracts, service agreements and purchases to screen for unsafe chemicals; and requesting IPM in bids and contracts with landscapers, pest-management companies, and other independent contractors engaged by the town.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in order to enhance understanding among local government staff and the public about the vital role that pollinators play and what each of us can do to sustain them, the Town of Middletown chooses to support and encourage healthy pollinator habitat creation and enhancement, resolving as follows:

1. The Town of Middletown Burgess and Commissioners is hereby designated as the *BEE CITY USA* sponsor.
2. The Town of Middletown's Administrator and Public Works Department are designated as the *BEE CITY USA* Liaison.
3. Facilitation of Town of Middletown's *BEE CITY USA* program is assigned to the Sustainability Standing Committee.
4. The Sustainability Standing Committee is authorized to and shall:
  - a. **Celebration:** Host at least one educational event or pollinator habitat planting or restoration each year to showcase Town of Middletown's commitment to raising awareness of pollinator conservation and expanding pollinator health and habitat.
  - b. **Publicity & Information:** Install and maintain at least one authorized *BEE CITY USA* street sign in a prominent location, and create and maintain a web page on the Town of Middletown's website which includes a copy of this resolution and links to the national *BEE CITY USA* website; contact information for your *BEE CITY USA* Liaison and Committee; reports of the pollinator-friendly activities the community has accomplished the previous year(s); and a recommended native plant species list and an IPM plan.
  - c. **Habitat:** Develop and implement a program to create or expand pollinator-friendly habitat on public and private land, which includes, but is not limited to: identifying and inventorying Town of Middletown's real property that can be enhanced with pollinator-friendly plantings; creating a recommended locally native plant list to include

wildflowers, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees and a list of local suppliers for those species; and, tracking (by square footage and/or acreage) annual area of pollinator habitat created or enhanced.

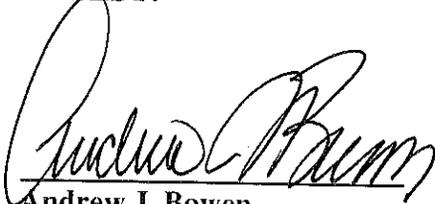
- d. **Pollinator-Friendly Pest Management:** Create and adopt an IPM plan designed to prevent pest problems, reduce pesticide use, and expand the use of non-chemical pest management methods.
- e. **Policy & Plans:** Establish, through the Town of Middletown, a Pollinator Conservation Program plan integrated into the Town's Sustainability Manual and a pollinator conservation policy in the Town's Comprehensive Plan to acknowledge and commit to the *BEE CITY USA* designation. An annual review the Pollinator Conservation Program and other relevant documents shall be performed to consider improvements to pollinator conservation efforts, the IPM plan and practices as they relate to pollinator conservation, performance of existing pollinator-friendly plantings, and consider new locations and other appropriate measures.
- f. **Renewal:** After completing the first calendar year as a *BEE CITY USA* affiliate, each February, apply for renewal of Town of Middletown's *BEE CITY USA* designation following the format provided by *BEE CITY USA*, including a report of the previous year's *BEE CITY USA* activities, and paying the renewal fee based on Town of Middletown's population.

**INTRODUCED ON THE 27<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2020**

**PASSED ON THE 27<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2020 EFFECTIVE**

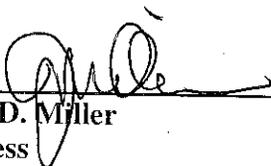
**DATE: June 27, 2020**

**ATTEST:**



Andrew J. Bowen  
Town Administrator

**BURGESS AND COMMISSIONERS  
OF MIDDLETOWN**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John D. Miller  
Burgess