

RESOLUTION DECLARING THE TOWN OF CABOT TO BE A POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

To see if the Town of Cabot 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 Cabot, Vermont, that the Town of Cabot 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 Cabot urges all Cabot 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 wherever possible;
- ◆ 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;
- ◆ Reducing mowing frequency to allow for more native plants to flower and provide food sources for pollinators;
- ◆ Focusing on planting native species wherever possible to promote pollinator food and habitat;

This resolution is non-binding and acts as a guide for the Town of Cabot to promote practices and activities to promote pollinators. This resolution was proposed by the Greater Cabot Working Landscape Network, a subcommittee of the Cabot Community Association.