

**TOWN OF BOONE
WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOONE TOWN COUNCIL TO REAFFIRM THE TOWN OF
BOONE'S DESIGNATION AS A BEE CITY USA® AFFILIATE**

WHEREAS, the mission of *BEE CITY USA* 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 minimize 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, the Town of Boone is pursuing re-certification as a *BEE CITY USA* community because of its ongoing dedicated sustainability commitments as well as its pursuits of climate and ecological-justice initiatives; and,

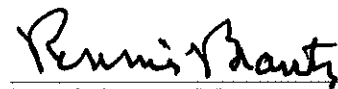
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Boone Town Council that in order to enhance understanding among local government staff and the public about the vital role that pollinators play and what each of us can do to sustain them, the Town of Boone hereby supports and encourages healthy pollinator habitat creation and enhancement, resolving as follows:

1. The Town of Boone's Sustainability and Special Projects Manager is hereby designated as the BEE CITY USA sponsor as well as a *BEE CITY USA* Liaison; and,
2. Facilitation of the Town of Boone's *BEE CITY USA* program is hereby assigned to the Sustainability Committee; and,
3. The Boone Town Council, in conjunction with its Sustainability Committee, shall:
 - a. Celebration: Host at least one educational event or pollinator habitat planting or restoration each year to showcase the Town of Boone's commitment to raising awareness of pollinator conservation and expanding pollinator health and habitat; and,
 - b. Publicity & Information: Install and maintain at least one authorized *BEE CITY USA* street sign in a prominent location, and create and maintain a webpage on the Town of Boone's website which includes, at minimum 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 your recommended native plant species list; and,
 - 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 the Town of Boone'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; and,
 - d. Pollinator-Friendly Pest Management: Create and adopt an integrated pest management (IPM) plan designed to prevent pest problems, reduce pesticide use, and expand the use of non-chemical pest management methods; and,
 - e. Policy & Plans: Establish a policy in the Town of Boone's Comprehensive Plan to acknowledge and commit to the *BEE CITY USA* designation and review the Comprehensive Plan and other relevant documents to consider improvements to pest management policies and practices as they relate to pollinator conservation, identify appropriate locations for pollinator-friendly plantings, and consider other appropriate measures; and,
 - f. Renewal: Apply for renewal of the Town of Boone's *BEE CITY USA* designation in accordance with the procedures and requirements established by *BEE CITY USA*.

Approved and effective this the 17th of June, 2021.

ATTEST:


Nicole Harmon, Town Clerk


Rennie Brantz, Mayor