

# Town of North Kingstown

## PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the North Kingstown Groundwater Committee has read the National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honeybees and other Pollinators published by the White House in 2012, and believes that its recommendations will not only help pollinators but that some of the same strategies will help protect our groundwater. The Committee recommends that the Town of North Kingstown join with us and many other organizations by officially adopting a pollinator protection plan for the Town and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, part of the above referenced publication states the following, “By expanding the conversation through enhanced public education and outreach as well as strongly built public/private partnerships, the Strategy seeks to engage all segments of our society so that we can take meaningful and important steps to reverse pollinator declines”; and

WHEREAS, The White House proclamation, the USDA, The Natural Resources Conservation Service, the National Fish and Wildlife Service, the RI Natural History Survey, the RI Wild Plant Society, and many other national and local organizations, and not least, the University of Rhode Island, are encouraging more pollinator-friendly activities to protect the planet’s threatened food supplies. We believe that the Town of North Kingstown is uniquely positioned to more actively look for ways to make its own properties more pollinator friendly, to act as an example to its citizens in pollinator rescue strategies, and to reach out to fellow municipalities to do the same; and

WHEREAS, the Town of North Kingstown is dedicated to preserving our natural environment and protecting biological diversity, as exemplified in its Zoning Regulations and its Comprehensive Plan; the next step is clear. However, without stronger dedication to restoring and creating pollinator habitat, our grandchildren will be justified in asking us why not, when the science of today is so clearly showing us the disastrous outcome of inaction; and

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WHEREAS, the Town of North Kingstown has shown itself to be a leader (it, for example, is the only town in Rhode Island where groundwater is the water source, that has a Groundwater Committee. Other examples are easily found). Being a leader in instigating more prolific pollinator-friendly strategies and encouraging its citizens to adopt similar practices should be part of this illustrious pattern; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that the North Kingstown Community officially adopt a pollinator-friendly strategy to emphasize the vital role that pollinators play in the planet's food supply and the role that it and all citizens can play to sustain them.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT proclaimed that The Town of North Kingstown will officially adopt pollinator-friendly actions where practicable, and consider reaching out to its own citizens and to other municipalities to join it, fulfilling the desire of the authors of the White House publication referred to above, "to help restore and sustain pollinator health nationwide."

Richard A. Welch  
Town Council President