

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING SCOTTSVILLE, VIRGINIA, A BEE CITY USA®

WHEREAS, the goal of *BEE CITY USA* is to promote healthy, sustainable habitats and communities for bees and other pollinators; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the tremendous diversity of managed honey bees and wild native bees, we have very diverse dietary choices rich in fruits, nuts, vegetables and even dairy products--one in every three bites of food we eat is courtesy of insect pollination; and

WHEREAS, bees and other pollinators around the globe have experienced dramatic declines due to a combination of habitat loss, use of pesticides, and the spread of pests and diseases, with grave implications for the future health of flora and fauna; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Scottsville and its residents have the opportunity to support bees and other pollinators on both public and private land; and

WHEREAS, supporting pollinators fosters environmental awareness and sustainability, and increases interactions among community stewards, backyard beekeepers, farmers, children, educators, Master Gardeners, and nature-related organizations; and

WHEREAS, the economic benefits of pro-pollinator programs are:

- Healthy ecosystems--insect pollinators are required for pollination and reproduction of more than three-quarters of plant species globally, plants that: 1) are vital for clean air and water; 2) provide food, fiber and shelter for people and wildlife; and 3) support the very insects that pollinate our crops and form the basis of food webs.
- Increased vegetable and fruit crop yields due to bee pollination.
- Reduced need for and costs associated with pesticides due to increased habitat for natural enemies of crop pests.
- Increased demand for pollinator-friendly plant materials from local nurseries and growers.
- Income earned by beekeepers and others through the sale of bee and beekeeping products; and

WHEREAS, ideal pollinator-friendly habitat:

- Provides diverse and abundant nectar and pollen from plants blooming in succession.
- Provides clean water for drinking, nest-building, cooling, and butterfly puddling.
- Is pesticide-free or has pesticide use carried out with least ill effects on pollinators.
- Is comprised of mostly, if not all, native species of annual and perennial wildflowers, shrubs, trees, and grasses because many native pollinators prefer or depend on the native plants with which they co-evolved.
- Includes, where possible, designated pollinator zones in public spaces with signage to educate the public and build awareness.
- Provides for safe and humane removal of honey bees when required.
- Provides undisturbed spaces (leaf and brush piles, un-mowed fields or field margins, fallen trees and other dead wood) for nesting and overwintering for native pollinators; and

WHEREAS, Scottsville, Virginia should be certified a *BEE CITY USA* community because the goals of *BEE CITY USA* are consistent with the town's focus on improving and sustaining the incorporated town's landscape and environment through the following efforts which collectively seek to protect natural resources by limiting environmental impact of town operations and fostering community partnerships:

- The town is already home to an active Butterfly Garden on East Main Street;
- The town has a long history of supporting the local farmer, which is continued today with the Scottsville Farmers' Market;
- There are numerous beekeepers in the town limits, as well as in the greater Scottsville area;

- The town is supportive of the Scottsville Center of Arts and Nature, which has established two honey bee colonies located on Hardware Street property within town limits; and
- With the establishment of the 63-acre Van Clief Nature Area, the town has increased focus on land-use and highlighted the importance of providing nature areas to benefit both wildlife and the quality of life of its residents and visitors.

WHEREAS, the Town of Scottsville supports its residents creatively utilizing land for vegetable and flower gardens, chickens, goats, and beehives, highlighting the critical role of small farmers and landowners' role in agriculture and a healthy food system.

WHEREAS, 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, SCOTTSVILLE agrees to meet the following commitments required of all *BEE CITY USA* communities:

- 1) Pass this *BEE CITY USA* **resolution** (which articulates these commitments).
- 2) Designates the Scottsville Center for Arts and Nature non-profit organization as the Bee City USA sponsor and Town Council Member / Farmers' Market Manager Shannon Bostic as the Bee City USA "**liaison**." This body will serve as the intermediary between the citizenry and local government on matters of enhancing pollinator awareness, health and habitat, fulfilling the following commitments:
 - **Annually celebrate** National Pollinator Week (third full week of June) or some other appropriate occasion with educational events, pollinator habitat plantings or restoration, proclamations or promotions that showcase the municipality's commitment to enhancing pollinator health and habitat.
 - Annually **apply for renewal** of the community's designation and submit a report of the previous year's *BEE CITY USA* activities following the format provided.
- 3) **Publicly acknowledge** the community's commitment by agreeing to a) install/maintain at least one authorized *BEE CITY USA* street sign in a prominent location, and b) create/maintain links on appropriate pages of the local government's website which includes, at minimum, links to a PDF of this signed Resolution and the national *BEE CITY USA* website, contact information for the local government's *BEE CITY USA* liaison and designated "facilitator commission or non-profit organization committee," and reports of the pollinator-friendly activities the community has accomplished the previous year(s).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SCOTTSVILLE TOWN COUNCIL THAT:

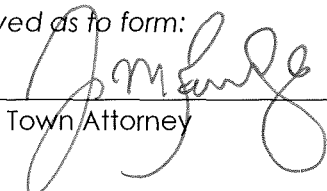
The SCOTTSVILLE TOWN COUNCIL accepts the designation and commits to the standards of *BEE CITY USA*.

Read, approved, and adopted this 15th day of August, 2016.


Town Clerk


Mayor

Approved as to form:


Town Attorney