

## Bee City Committee Meeting – October 22, 2019 at 8am

In attendance:

Alan Parkinson

Allison Early

Dave Engelhart

Helen Wiley

Ivy Wells – Vice-Chair

Jeff Fleetwood

Kate Patton – Chair

Kelsey Jensen –

Liaison/Secretary/Documentarian

Meghan Pfaller

Mike Wiley

Peggy Hagy

Steve Farr

Sue Bashore

Kelsey discussed the requirements of the Town for renewal which included: Committee formed with positions designated and meets at least once a year; Celebrate National Pollinator Week (3<sup>rd</sup> full week of June) by proclamation; have at least one event with plantings and educational material (can be during pollinator week or cleanup day); install Bee City approved signage; create and maintain a webpage within our webpage; develop an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM); create/expand pollinator friendly habitats throughout Town; and acknowledge the Bee City Designation in future comp plans.

Kate said she works with Pollinator Certified Programs and IPM's. She suggested spreading publicity regarding standing water to help with mosquitos which would minimize spraying in Town. Kelsey said we can post information about how to minimize standing water on the Public Access Channel, the new webpage, and Facebook – if you have any information on how to minimize standing water let her know. Members also suggested promoting bat boxes because they help with the mosquito population and they are pollinators. Ivy said weeping willows require a lot of water and may be beneficial to areas with standing water.

Kelsey asked where the current gardens are and suggested placing signage in those areas. Current gardens are located in Henry Park, Heron Park, Stephen Decatur Park, and the Spray sites. Steve said they will be planting native plants in the area of the submerged gravel wetlands project on Graham Avenue, so we can include that location as well.

Alan said when he sprays, he does not spray in the morning, not near flowers, all root-based spraying, mostly sidewalks, he keeps a log of spraying he does, he does not do it when it is windy, and he does not spray in the parks or near crops of any sort. Mike said for residents we should promote alternative spraying which is 1-gallon vinegar, ½ cup of dawn, and 2 cups of Epsom salt. Meghan also mentioned torching is a good method to kill weeds.

Kate said Coastal Bays and Lower Shore Land Trust have local growers of native plants and are both well versed in pollinator friendly plants, she also mentioned that they may be able to receive grants to help promote the program.

Kelsey suggested having local groups like Worcester Youth and Family help with expanding and maintaining the gardens as a form of volunteering, Peggy said the high school students would likely help too.

Dave said when development projects come before the planning commission, they are required to have a certain amount of green space and he will promote planting pollinator gardens or friendly plants.

Ivy asked if there were any specific grants the Town could receive to help residents start a pollinator garden; Kate said maybe not the Town, but Coastal Bays and Lower Shore Land Trust probably could, and she would discuss that further with Ivy. They thought maybe free starter packages with plants and information on maintaining them.

Mike Wiley said it may be helpful to get more press coverage on the events we hold by connecting with the WBOC's the Karlis. He said they have a lot of involvement and want to help in the community.

Sue said the library may be a good place to promote and place resources about Bee City.

The group agreed to meet in early March and then have a representative attend a Heron Park Meeting and a Parks Commission Meeting. Kelsey will send out some dates. She is not sure when she will be back from maternity leave, she believes in the March timeframe.

Kate said she would send Kelsey some information on native plants that are bee friendly and would be willing to help with the IPM.

Lastly, Kelsey received permission from everyone to post their names on the webpage we create as committee members and got permission to give their emails to Bee City as members.