TOWNSHIP OF EVESHAM
RESOLUTION NO. 265-2023

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING EVEHAM TOWNSHIP
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 minimizes 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED 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, Evesham Township chooses to support and encourage healthy pollinator habitat creation and enhancement, resolving as follows:

1. The Evesham Township Manager's Department is hereby designated as the BEE CITY USA sponsor.

2. The Township Manager, or his/her designee, is designated as the BEE CITY USA Liaison.

3. Facilitation of Evesham Township's BEE CITY USA program is assigned to the Evesham Township Environmental Commission.

4. The Evesham Township Environmental Commission is authorized to and shall:

    a. **Celebration:** Host at least one educational event or pollinator habitat planting or restoration each year to showcase Evesham Township's commitment to raising awareness of pollinator conservation and expanding pollinator health and habitat.

    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 Evesham Township 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 integrated pest management plan (explained below).

    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 Evesham Township'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.

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.

e. **Planning, Policy, & Practices:** Establish and develop policies and practices to consider improvements to pest management policies as they relate to pollinator conservation, identify appropriate locations for pollinator-friendly plantings, and consider other appropriate measures. This will be achieved through collaborative planning efforts between the Advisory Environmental Commission, Township Manager, relevant Township departments and outside agencies including but not limited to the Pinelands Commission. This effort including the commitment of the Township to BEE City designation may inform and be included in the municipal master plan which is periodically reviewed by the Planning Board.

f. **Renewal:** After completing the first calendar year as a BEE CITY USA affiliate, each February, apply for renewal of Evesham Township's BEE CITY USA designation following the format provided by BEE CITY USA, including a report of the previous year's BEE CITY USA activities, and paying the renewal fee based on Evesham Township's population.

I **HEREBY CERTIFY** that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Township Council of the Township of Evesham, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey at a meeting held at the Municipal Complex, 984 Tuckerton Road, Marlton, New Jersey 08053 on August 9, 2023.

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Mary Lou Bergh, Township Clerk

	ROLL CALL VOTE					
COUNCIL MEMBER	INTRODUCED	SECONDED	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
COOPER						
ESPINOZA						
FREEMAN						
HANSEN						
MAYOR VEASY						