SELECTMEN'S MINUTES
MONDAY MAY 17, 2021

Present: Parker Lord, John Kiker, Steven Mattson, Mary Powell-St Louis and David Lahm

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 P.M. and the minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

The board reappointed Paul Armond, Robert Standish, Parker Lord, and Lucius Stark to the Open Space Committee.

The board discussed planning for the Annual Town Meeting to be held May 19 and it was noted that all plans are complete, and all required notifications have been made. The outside of town hall will be prepared that afternoon with the help of the town crew and volunteers.

Selectman Kiker proposed that the Board of Selectmen adopt a resolution declaring Lyme a pollinator-friendly community and support the Sustainable Committee's efforts to educate the residents on the benefits of the creation of a pollinator pathway in town. The resolution was adopted and is attached to these minutes.

The board approved two tax refund requests in the amounts of $342.49 and $171.08.

Selectman Mattson asked the board's approval to reschedule the June 21 meeting to June 22 due to a scheduling conflict and the board agreed.

The guests expressed their preference that future board meetings continue in the hybrid fashion as it allows residents to participate more often. The board noted the need to follow state rules on public meetings and their hope that hybrid meetings can be continued.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:58 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Mattson
For the Board of Selectmen

RESOLUTION DECLARING THE TOWN OF LYME
A POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, butterflies, birds, bees and other pollinators are a critical part of a healthy ecosystem and of essential importance to our food system, providing the propagation through pollination for 75 percent of the world's flowering plants, including 35 percent of food crops, and,

WHEREAS, pollinator populations are in sharp decline due to human land development and landscape practices that are causing ongoing habitat loss and fragmentation, flowerless lawns, and a lawn culture that requires excessive fertilizers, chemicals and high maintenance costs, and offers no benefit to bees and other wildlife, and,

WHEREAS, the use of pesticides, herbicides and rodenticides is often not necessary in order to create and maintain healthy lawns, gardens or open spaces, given the availability of alternative practices and products, and,

WHEREAS, integrated pest management, designed to manage pests by addressing the underlying sources of the pest problems and prioritizing techniques that are least toxic to humans and the environment, strengthens efforts to protect pollinators, and,

WHEREAS, pollinators both depend on and benefit the native plants of Lyme which provide food and shelter for all wildlife, help prevent erosion, keep our waterways clean and improve the air that we breathe; and recent scientific research supports the benefits to pollinators of connecting isolated patches of pollinator-friendly habitat to form pathways and corridors, and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Lyme can demonstrate its support for a pollinator-friendly community by creating, enhancing and/or maintaining pollinator habitats on land managed by the Town by encouraging the planting of pollinator-friendly native plants, and to abstain from chemical use on town properties whenever possible …

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Lyme is hereby declared a Pollinator-Friendly Community by supporting a creation of a pollinator pathway through Lyme – hereafter referred to as the Lyme Pollinator Pathway (LPP) – as an initiative of the Lyme Sustainable Committee which was appointed by the Lyme Board of Selectmen. The LPP volunteer team includes representatives from the Town of Lyme and the following sponsor organizations: The Lyme Garden Club, Lyme Land Trust, Lyme Public Library and Friends of the Lyme Public Library, UConn Master Gardeners Program and Friends of the Whalebone Cove.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Lyme will set an example for the community by adopting the pollinator-friendly practices listed below whenever possible:

- Creating, restoring, maintaining and enhancing pollinator habitats that include native vegetation wherever feasible; and supporting residents' efforts to create pollinator habitats that connect in order to make a step-by-step pathway for pollinators;

- Following pollinator-friendly landscape best practices whenever possible for applicable fields and meadows to encourage native vegetation and pollinator nourishment; mowing these identified fields and meadows once a year after frost whenever possible, unless more mowing is required for extenuating circumstances, including, but not limited to, invasive plant or pest management; and

- Sponsoring and encouraging educational programs, lectures, materials and demonstration projects for the community of Lyme to learn more about being effective stewards of the land and how to confidently carry out the aforementioned pollinator-friendly preferred practices.

AND FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Lyme will encourage property owners, residents, town departments and business owners to adopt both the practices listed above and the practices described below:

- Adopting integrated pest management and avoiding the use of insecticides, herbicides and rodenticides, especially systemic insecticides and neonicotinoids on their properties;

- Adopting pollinator-friendly "preferred practices" on lawn areas whenever possible, including the consideration of such methods as mowing every 2-3 weeks or less; optimally waiting until grass grows to 4 inches and then cutting no shorter than 3 inches; practicing "No Mow May"; and adopting organic and chemical-free landscaping practices wherever possible;

- Avoiding the planting of flowering plants that are treated with systemic insecticides and avoiding the use of seeds coated with systemic neonicotinoids whenever possible; and

- Avoiding the planting of invasive species and taking measures to control and/or remove invasive species whenever possible.