

## RESOLUTION #2-R-20

Designating the month of May, 2020, as **No Mow May**

*Date: February 5, 2020*

*Submitted By: Alderperson Schultz – District 9, Alderperson Martin – District 4, Alderperson Meltzer – District 2, Alderperson Otis – District 15, Alderperson Fenton – District 6, Alderperson Firkus – District 3*

*Referred To: Municipal Services Committee*

**WHEREAS**, as a BEE CITY USA affiliate, the City of Appleton and its designated community advocacy group for pollinator awareness and engagement, Pollenablers-Fox Cities, is directed to “Develop and implement a program to create or expand pollinator-friendly habitat on public and private land, to galvanize communities to adopt sustainable pollinator-friendly land management practices, and;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Appleton is in a unique position, being both a BEE CITY USA affiliate and also hosting a BEE CITY CAMPUS, to leverage both designations to significantly increase pollinator-friendly habitat by encouraging pollinator-friendly lawn-care practices and by incentivizing its citizens to take direct and meaningful action on their own properties, and

**WHEREAS**, ideal pollinator-friendly habitat is comprised of mostly native wildflowers, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees blooming in succession throughout the growing season, is free or nearly free of pesticides, is comprised of undisturbed spaces including leaf and brush piles, un-mown fields or field margins, fallen trees and other dead wood for nesting and overwintering; and provides connectivity between habitat areas to support pollinator movement and resilience; and

**WHEREAS**, the formative period for establishment of pollinator insect species occurs in late spring and early summer when pollinator species emerge from hibernation or suspended animation and when supporting plants emerge and blossom, offering crucial life cycle habitat and forage opportunities; and these opportunities are dramatically reduced with early spring leaf litter removal and grass mowing; now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of Appleton and Pollenablers-Fox Cities, along with their partnering organizations, jointly recognize **No Mow May** to actively promote and educate the community about the critical period of pollinator emergence, generation of crucial pollinator-supporting habitat and early spring foraging opportunities, and;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that for the duration of the month of May, the City of Appleton shall suspend the enforcement of Municipal Code Chapter 12, Article III - Weeds and Wild Growth, permitting all residents to voluntarily delay lawn-care and litter removal practices until June, allowing pollinators to emerge and early flowering grasses and forbes to establish, which may result in ground-cover exceeding established ordinance height restrictions, and; that following the month of May, the City of Appleton shall not issue citations for excessive “weed” growth for an additional grace period of 2 weeks.