


MEMORANDUM

To: Conservation Commission/Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency

From: Suzanne Simone, Environmental Planner 

Date: December 1, 2022

Re: Native Plant Ordinance - Draft

The Conservation Commission chairman was contacted by Kristi Vitelli and provided the Native Plant ordinance draft (attached). The author is seeking feedback from the Commission before their presentation of this proposed language to the town council.

NATIVE PLANTING ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, the Town Council of Glastonbury acknowledges that pollination is an essential ecological survival function, and without native plants and the pollinators that depend on them, the human race and all of earth's terrestrial ecosystems will not survive;

WHEREAS, protecting and promoting genetically diverse and appropriate native plantings is seen as a way to increase microhabitats for the conservation of wildlife which is accomplished by establishing new habitats while maintaining and connecting the existing habitats;

WHEREAS, The Town of Glastonbury recognizes that the health and safety of its residents is of paramount concern and that high standards for the promotion and protection of the health and safety of its residents must underlie municipal action.

WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of the Town of Glastonbury and its residents to protect the ecological integrity of its rivers and streams and to improve and protect water quality throughout the region.

WHEREAS, Glastonbury has shown leadership in encouraging practices necessary to protect the public health and environment; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that native trees offer the greatest degree of habitat for pollinators; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of Glastonbury adopting this Native Planting Ordinance will help combat the climate crisis, species extinction, and global warming while protecting pollinators.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF GLASTONBURY:

The Municipal Code of Glastonbury is hereby amended by inserting a new ordinance as follows:

Purpose:

The purpose of these regulations is to establish minimum standards for the use of native plantings in the Town of Glastonbury for municipal and open space lands.

Justification:

The town recognizes the significant benefits of establishing and protecting native plants for species conservation, protecting pollinators, ecological restoration, and combating the climate crisis by maximizing the use of native plantings by the town.

Intent:

It is the intent of this ordinance to maximize the use of appropriate native plantings on municipal properties to help mitigate the effects of habitat loss and fragmentation from development and the proliferation of non-native plantings in our town landscapes.