



## **TOWN OF GROTON**

Stewardship Committee

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Groton Community Preservation Committee

Groton Town Hall

Groton, MA 01450

January 9, 2024

Dear Members of the Community Preservation Committee,

This letter is submitted on behalf of the Groton Stewardship committee in support of the Groton Sustainability Commission's project to create a pollinator garden extension at the Groton Center. This is CPC application for the 2025 year.

The Sustainability Commission is requesting CPA funds for the creation of a pollinator garden extension off the Ice Trail at the Groton Center. The proposed project would connect the community garden as well as the pollinator garden at the Groton Center, which are enjoyed by many residents on a regular basis. The creation of the pollinator garden extension is part of a larger initiative led by the Sustainability Commission to eventually create a pollinator corridor across several protected areas in Groton.

Some of the main priorities shared by the Sustainability Commission and the Stewardship Committee are to enhance the town's open spaces, build local resilience to the effects of climate change, and support biodiversity in Groton. The creation of suitable habitat for native pollinator species is an excellent way to achieve all three of these priorities. Currently, our pollinator community is under threat across Massachusetts, and it is important that we take measures to protect them. The introduction and spread of invasive species, loss of plant biodiversity, and use of certain pesticides and lawn chemicals have resulted in an unprecedented decline in native pollinator species. One way to support our native pollinator community is to create and maintain suitable habitats using native plants, which support species diversity and richness.

During the Stewardship Committee meeting on November 29, 2023, the Sustainability Commission members presented their project idea and there was unanimous support among the members present. The Stewardship Committee strongly supports funding for the Sustainability Commission's initiative to create a pollinator garden extension at the Groton Center and we believe this will be a worthwhile investment of CPA funds.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

//signed//

Lisa M. Murray

Chair, Stewardship Committee