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Dear Burlington Conservation Board,

I'm writing to you to discuss ways we can save the pollinators. Many people don't understand why bees are so crucial to our environment. I will briefly explain why they matter so much. Bees pollinate  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the food that we eat, so without them, access to many of those foods wouldn't be available. This might lead to nutritional deficiencies in the human diet. Bees are also essential to healthy ecosystems and sustaining human and animal life.

In our community, pollinators are threatened by chemical pesticides and habitat loss. Pesticides destroy the systems of bees and impair reproduction which can lead to Colony Collapse Disorder and the decline of pollinators. Mowing lawns can also destroy habitats for these insects.

It would be amazing if the town of Burlington could allocate funds dedicated to providing seeds or plants of pollinator friendly flowers to Burlington residents. These would be planted in those who have backyards which would be beneficial in many ways. First, by planting a bee garden you are creating a habitat with plants rich in pollen and nectar. In addition, it encourages people to get their hands in the soil and enjoy nature, maybe add some beauty to their space.

Some pollinator friendly plants include borage, dahlia, daisy, dandelion, goldenrod, lavender, marigold, milkweed, snapdragon and sunflowers. It could be helpful to give those in the community instructions on how to plant these and education about why bees are crucial to our ecosystem.

It appears to me that your board is responsible for advising the city on matters regarding natural resource conservation and environmental protection. Therefore, this project would be a perfect thing to focus on. Please let me know what your thoughts are for this proposal.

Thank you for your time.

With care,  
Talya Knopf