



RESOLUTION 2020-11

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF NEWTOWN TOWNSHIP SUPPORT OF THE USE OF NATIVE PLANTS

WHEREAS, Native Plants are localized, well adapted to the local soils and climate, tend to be more insect and disease resistant, and require less watering and fertilizing than non-native plants; and

WHEREAS, wildlife such as birds, pollinators and amphibians are more attracted to the Native Plants with which they coevolved, and use such plants for food, cover, and rearing their young; and

WHEREAS, Native Plants, having evolved in the climate, are extremely hardy and therefore have lower maintenance and replacement costs; and

WHEREAS, increased use of Native Plants will help to create resiliency to the impacts of climate change for people and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, Native Plants protect water quality by reducing stormwater runoff and erosion; and

WHEREAS, Newtown Township is already taking action to manage its stormwater and restore watershed health, including the reduction of sediment pollution in the Crum and Darby Creeks, and complying with the NPDES MS4 permit through Minimum Control Measures; and

WHEREAS, healthy ecosystems have been shown to provide therapeutic benefits to our mental well-being and physical health; and

WHEREAS, Native Plant usage helps restore the ecological balance and biodiversity we have lost through development and can help maintain, or even increase, property values; and

WHEREAS, the use of Native Plants helps to preserve our local heritage;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Newtown Township, in the County of Delaware, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, that Newtown Township shall make every reasonable effort to ensure that all properties owned or controlled by the Township use a minimum of 80 percent Native Plants in new plantings, and to move as quickly as possible to achieve that goal;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event that replacement of preexisting, non-native plants on properties owned or controlled by the Township is required or undertaken and suitable alternative or equivalent native plants are not available, the Township may replace such non-native plants with similar, non-invasive varieties of non-native plants;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Newtown Township Environmental Advisory Council and other elected and appointed officials will educate and empower residents with the goal of transitioning at least 50 percent of Township private properties to include no less than 20 percent native plants;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors and other elected and appointed officials are urged to do everything in their power to bring Newtown Township closer to using a minimum of 80 percent native plants on all properties owned or controlled by the Township; and ensure that the benefits of native plants are realized by Newtown Township residents from all walks of life;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Newtown will avoid taking actions that could increase the use of non-native plants or delay the transition to a minimum of 80 percent native plants;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the week beginning April 20, 2020, be, and hereby is, declared "Newtown Township Native Plant Week" and that the Newtown Township Environmental Advisory Council shall organize appropriate event(s) to be held during such week to begin educating and empowering residents to appreciate, and take advantage of, the benefits that flow from the use of Native Plants.

RESOLVED this 9th day of March, 2020.



ATTEST:


Stephen Nease, Township Manager

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF NEWTOWN**

By: 
John Nawn, P.E., Chairman