

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN TOWN COUNCIL
IN SUPPORT OF VOLUNTARY NON-USE OF HARMFUL PESTICIDES, HERBICIDES
AND FERTILIZERS ON LAWNS AND GARDENS**

WHEREAS, the Town of Charlestown includes substantial portions of the Pawcatuck River, and Quonochontaug, Ninigret, and Green Hill Salt Ponds, thus giving the Town of Charlestown a greater responsibility to protect groundwater from pollution; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Charlestown has several Salt Ponds, rivers and/or tributaries, which are currently under significant stress; and

WHEREAS, the Salt Ponds, rivers and/or tributaries of Charlestown are an essential component of the recreation and tourism industry in the town; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Charlestown is 100% dependent upon private wells for drinking water; and

WHEREAS, harmful pesticides, herbicides and/or fertilizers could contaminate groundwater and wells; and

WHEREAS, the regular use of pesticides can kill the good bugs and healthy organisms which will, when left alone, take care of the pests that are not wanted. In other words, pesticides can upset the balance of nature; and

WHEREAS, nondiscriminate use of herbicides may be detrimental to human health; and

WHEREAS, excess nitrogen and phosphates from fertilizers can contribute to undesired aquatic plant growth which may result in stress and death to fish and plant life in the Salt Ponds, rivers and their tributaries; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Charlestown and its citizens, must proceed more carefully than in recent history, being mindful of the impact of their actions upon the environment; and

WHEREAS, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically; and

WHEREAS, the health of the Citizens of the Town of Charlestown, their water, and the environment would benefit from the non-use of harmful pesticides, herbicides, and/or fertilizers; and

WHEREAS, lawns and gardens can be maintained without the use of harmful pesticides, herbicides, or fertilizers. Improving the soil through more natural methods will result in lawns and gardens requiring less care and less water, without the use of harmful chemicals; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council of the Town of Charlestown, State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, that the Council urges all citizens to voluntarily refrain from the use of harmful pesticides, herbicides, and/or fertilizers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Charlestown will accordingly incorporate lawn and turf care, on all town owned lands, that has the least possible hazards to people and the environment.

Passed at a legally assembled Town Council meeting held on December 14, 2009.

ATTEST: _____
Jodi P. LaCroix, CMC
Town Clerk