In the City Council, March 7, 2019

Upon the Recommendation of: Councilor Alisa F. Klein
Councilor James B. Nash

R-19.012
A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A SELECT COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE\(^1\) REDUCTION

WHEREAS, Section 2.6.3 of the Northampton City Council Rules provides that the City Council may “establish select committees for the purpose of considering a particular policy or issue;” and

WHEREAS, in Goal EEC-4 of the Sustainable Northampton Comprehensive Plan dated January 2008, Objective #9 calls for Northampton to “Reduce use of toxic substances being released in the environment, including pesticides, herbicides, high Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) paints, and other listed toxic materials;” and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has declared that “the commonplace, widespread use of pesticides is both a major environmental problem and a public health issue;”\(^2\) and

WHEREAS, pesticides are poisons that are known to cause harm to more than just the pests that they are supposed to target. Human exposure to pesticides has been linked to a range of serious illnesses and diseases in humans including, but not limited to, asthma, childhood and adult cancers, degenerative brain diseases such as Parkinson’s disease, neurological disorders, birth defects, depression, anxiety, and attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD);\(^3\) and

WHEREAS, pregnant women, the elderly, people with compromised immune systems, pets, and children are particularly vulnerable to the deleterious effects of exposure to pesticides; and

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\(^1\) For purposes of this resolution, as guided by the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture Research Foundation, the term “pesticide” includes insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, rodenticides, and other toxins designed to manage or regulate plant growth. Pests are defined as undesirable plants, insects, fungi, bacteria, rodents, birds, and other animals.


\(^3\) Impact of pesticides on health. Pesticide Action Network UK. http://www.pan-uk.org/health-effects-of-pesticides/
WHEREAS, babies and children are often exposed to these toxins more than adults because they crawl on the grass and play in parks and on fields and school grounds where turf management practices include the use of pesticides; and

WHEREAS, the use of pesticides is associated with the precipitous decline of pollinators and birds; in fact: a) most types of bees are in steep decline in the United States and in 2018, Massachusetts beekeepers lost 65 percent of their honey bee hives, a rate 25 percent higher than the national average, and b) the American Bird Conservancy has listed 113 pesticides that have caused direct bird mortality; and

WHEREAS, toxic runoff from pesticides pollutes streams, lakes, and drinking water sources; and

WHEREAS, the use of hazardous pesticides is not always necessary to create and maintain landscapes given the availability of viable alternatives; and

WHEREAS, towns, cities, states, and regions all over the world are banning the use of some pesticides and requiring both organic management and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) of municipal green space and agricultural areas.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Northampton hereby establishes a “Select Committee on Pesticide Reduction” as follows:

1. The Council President shall appoint up to ten (10) members to the Committee by April 18, 2019, including:
   a. Two (2) members of the City Council; and
   b. Up to eight (8) city residents who possess expertise in the professional fields of agriculture, recreation, forestry, turf management, organic and/or IPM land care, conservation, public health, or other related fields, or who are representatives from the public schools.

2. The Committee shall study and evaluate:
   a. The city’s current management of turf, conservation areas, and other municipal green space, particularly around schools and other locations where children play;

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b. Alternatives to pesticide use, including but not limited to, integrated pest management and organic management;

c. Policies and practices from other jurisdictions to reduce pesticide use;

d. Estimated costs as well as potential grants, incentive programs, and other financial resources to implement pesticide reduction projects;

e. Recommend benchmarks with respect to the goal of achieving an overall reduction in the use of pesticides consistent with sound pest management practices; and

f. Other related issues.

3. The Committee shall convene by May 1, 2019 and then meet as determined by the Committee.

4. The Committee shall submit a report to the City Council by October 1, 2019 that includes practical and legislative recommendations to reduce pesticide use in Northampton, after which the Select Committee shall cease to exist.

5. The Committee shall be a public body.

6. The Committee shall not be staffed by the Administrative Assistant to the City Council unless otherwise determined by the Council President.
In the City Council, April 18, 2019

Upon the Recommendation of: Councilor Alisa F. Klein  
Councilor James B. Nash

R-19.047  
A Resolution Amending and Extending the Timeline  
Associated with the Select Committee on Pesticide Reduction

WHEREAS, the City Council previously approved R-19.012, "A Resolution Establishing a Select Committee on Pesticide Reduction" (hereafter, "the original resolution") in accordance with Sec 2.6.3 of the Council Rules; and

WHEREAS, allowing more time for residents to learn about and apply to the Committee would be in the public interest.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Northampton hereby authorizes the Council President to appoint members after the April 18, 2019 date provided in the original resolution so long as the total membership is not more than the number described in that resolution. The committee shall convene within three weeks of such appointment and the report of the Committee shall be due within five months of such appointment. Where there may be other conflicts between the original resolution and this resolution, the terms of this resolution shall supersede the original.

In City Council, April 18, 2019  
Passed First Reading on Roll Call Vote of 8 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Sciarra)  
Attest: ___________________________, Clerk of Council

In City Council, April 18, 2019  
Passed Second Reading, on Roll Call Vote of 8 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Sciarra)  
Attest: ___________________________, Clerk of Council

Rules suspended, passed two readings and enrolled.  
I hereby certify that the above Resolution passed the Northampton City Council on April 18, 2019  
Attest: ___________________________, Clerk of Council