



CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITY GRANT



JANUARY

30

CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITY FUND APPLICATION

MARCH

5

Yes!

AMANDA COSTELLO

APRIL

19



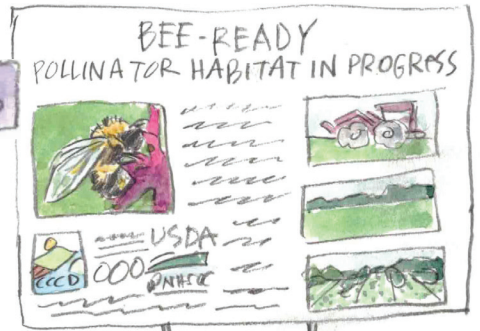
TARP

20

DOWN

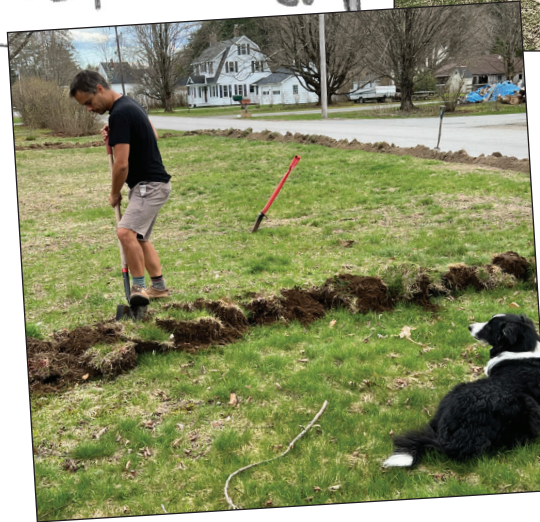


26



29

Site visit
• Amanda
• Bene'e
• Wendy
• Emma
• Michael
• Bill + Pip
• Lynn



The application for a Conservation Opportunity Fund grant was submitted on January 30, 2024. The aim? To convert \approx 3000 sq. ft. of lawn into Pollinator Habitat. On March 5, Amanda emailed that funding was approved! This was followed by a site visit on March 29.

A 100 x 32' roll of silage tarp was purchased from Greenfield Farmers Exchange on June 19. The next day, Bill, Lynn, and our son, Jason, dug a trench around the perimeter, laid down the plastic tarp, and refilled the trench to hold the edges of the tarp. On the 26th, the CCCD sign was put in place and started generating interest among neighbors.

POLINATOR HABITAT



JANUARY - DECEMBER 2024

JUNE

29 FASSETT FARM

JULY

30 Site visit
JULIE
MICHAELSON

AUGUST

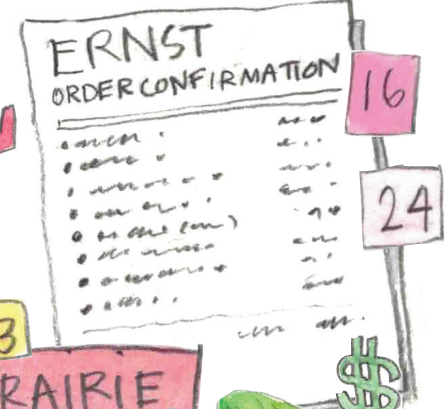
1-30 JULIE + BILL

SEPTEMBER

1-26 JULIE + BILL



16 TARP UP + DOWN



23 PRAIRIE NURSERY



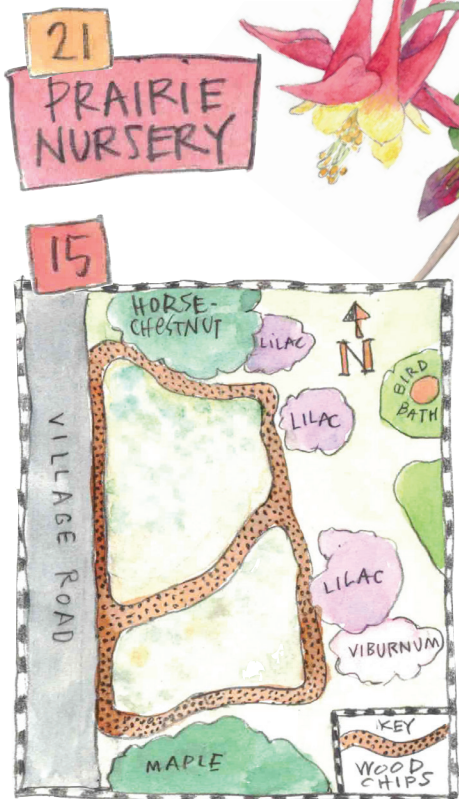
Month after month, the sun and tarp baked the grass and surface seeds. There was a lot of curiosity in the hood. The word was out! In late June, we took a field trip to Fassett Farm in Jaffery to view their pollinator garden and to pick up a few plants. These were tucked into existing gardens but will be moved into the new space in the spring of 2025.

July ended with a visit from Julie Michaelson of the Xerces Society. Through August and September, Julie figured and adjusted a custom seed mix for our situation. Bill supported this process with his knowledge and research. Seed was ordered from Ernst Conservation Seeds and supplemented with plants and seeds from Prairie Nursery. In mid-August, the tarp came up, the surface raked of dead material, and the tarp went back down.

✿ LYNN ZIMMERMAN ✿ SURRY, NEW HAMPSHIRE

OCTOBER

DECEMBER



21 PRAIRIE NURSERY

15



TARP UP



28



MANY THANKS to all who made this project possible. To the Cheshire County Conservation District — you have made a dream come true. Thank you. To Julie — thanks for your generosity and sharing your love of bugs. To Amanda, Benée, and Ellinore — thanks for all your cheerful encouragement and support. To Jason — your strength, stamina, and enthusiasm made this project possible. Thank you. To Bill — thanks for sharing your knowledge, muscle, and love. And to Pip just because.

Plants arrived from Prairie Nursery and were tucked into existing gardens to wait for spring. A load of wood chips came and will be used around the edges and on the path. We did not end up planting the Canada Wild Rye seed. Turns out it has sharp, hooked awns that can catch in a dog's eyes, respiratory system, and skin where they can cause infection and do damage. Village Road is a popular dog walking route.

After eight months of having a large area of black plastic lawn, the tarp was finally lifted! We mixed the seed with Vermiculite to help distribute it more evenly and scattered the mixture on snow. Excited to see what happens in the spring!