



## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CDR# 2018154

Date: 20181217

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**TO:** Mayor Kogon and Members of Amherst Town Council

**SUBMITTED BY:** Bill Schurman, Director of Recreation

**DATE:** December 17, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Fundy Winds Project

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**ORIGIN:** Mr. W.R Barrow & Darren White presented an over view of the Fundy Winds Project to the Committee on November 19, 2018. On December 4, 2018 a written request from Mr. Barrow was received requesting assistance from the Town for the project.

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY:** MGA, Section 65(k) Power to expend money states: *"the council may expend money required by the municipality for ... recreational programs, and (l) advertising the opportunities of the municipality for business, industrial, and tourism purposes, and encouraging tourist traffic, with power to make a grant to a non-profit society for this purpose."*

**RECOMMENDATION:** That Council forward approval of the purchase of two park benches to be located in a rest area of Fundy Winds at a cost no greater than \$1200 to the December 17, 2018 regular meeting of Council. The benches are to include a nameplate indicating the contribution is from the Town of Amherst. Further, that before any further funding is considered that staff attempts to, along with Mr. Barrow, arrange for a stakeholders meeting to discuss in more detail the project. Stakeholders to include the County of Cumberland and the Province of Nova Scotia (Communities Sport & Recreation).

**BACKGROUND:** The Fundy Winds Project is approximately 50 acres in size of which half will be flooded and maintained by one mile of dyke. The focal point for the development will be a 23-acre flooded marsh with a perimeter trail through the marsh and a small wooded area. The development is located in Cumberland County one mile east of the Trans-Canada Highway and one mile north of Amherst. Access is by Eddy Road. Work on the area has been ongoing for several years with no government assistance to date. We are advised that Fundy Winds has recently been designated a Conservation Easement Property and will be available for outdoor Education, Recreation and Conservation.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:** \$1200 expenditure can be accommodated within existing budget envelope

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** While the Town of Amherst has not engaged the community on this project, many residents, educators, students and citizens have visited Fundy Winds.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS:** The designation of Fundy Winds as a Conservation Easement Property is significant for the region and can prove to be very beneficial.



**SOCIAL JUSTICE IMPLICATIONS:** Parks that include green space and natural environments can improve health outcomes in traditionally underserved communities. Careful planning and continued engagement are important to these projects.

**ALTERNATIVES:** Council could decide to provide additional resources at this time, consider support for the project during its 2019-20 budget deliberations or council could decide not to support this project in the 2018-19 fiscal year.

**ATTACHMENTS:** Letter from Bill Barrow