

**DEPARTMENT:** ALL TOWN DEPARTMENTS

**TITLE:** Amherst Youth Town Council Policy

Minutes reference date: 25 May, 2010 24 October, 2011 25 November, 2013 October 23, 2017  
25 June, 2018

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**PURPOSE:**

To establish a policy for the governance of the Amherst Youth Town Council.

**BASIS:**

The Amherst Youth Town Council will act as an advisory body to Town Council on those matters within the influence of the Town of Amherst which have an impact on the youth of the Town, regardless of their cultural and religious identity, socio-economic background, intellectual and physical abilities, sexuality or gender. The Amherst Youth Town Council will improve the image of the Town of Amherst by raising the profile of the Town's youth. The Council will create community awareness of youth facilities, youth services, youth organizations and the opportunities and programs they provide.

**ROLE OF COMMITTEE:**

1. The Amherst Youth Town Council will identify and bring forward issues which have an impact on the youth of Amherst and, while *indirectly* under the control of the Town of Amherst, may be of sufficient significance to warrant the Town's consideration or support.
2. The Amherst Youth Town Council shall encourage its members to become more familiar with the workings of local government through education, involvement and participation *in council meetings*.
3. The Amherst Youth Town Council will, through researching issues and presenting constructive solutions, act as a realistic advocate for the youth of our community.
4. The Amherst Youth Town Council will endeavor to participate actively in community events and activities, as well as host events they deem fit, in Amherst, and through this involvement, foster a positive image for all young people.
5. The Amherst Youth Town Council may address, foster discussion, or make recommendations to Town Council on issues that they believe need to be addressed for the benefit of the youth.

**MEMBERSHIP:**

1. The Council shall appoint members of the Amherst Youth Town Council by resolution.
2. The maximum number of appointees on the Amherst Youth Town Council is 12.
3. Members shall be students attending Amherst schools from grade 7 to 12 with a maximum of three members being county residents.
4. The term for citizen youth appointees shall be two years and members may be reappointed to the committee without limitations. Members who do not complete their two year term may be replaced, with their replacement finishing their term and eligible for reappointment without limitations. Citizen appointee terms shall commence November 1<sup>st</sup> annually.
5. In June of each year, advertisement for expression of interest will be posted using appropriate media to reach youth. Council will appoint members for the new term prior to the end of October each year.

**MEETINGS:**

1. Meetings will be scheduled by the *Junior Mayor*, in consultation with staff and fellow members. Generally, meetings will commence at 3:05pm at an accessible location.
2. The committee will meet bi-monthly or as required. Each month a member of the Amherst Youth Town Council will attend an Amherst Town Council regular meeting.
3. \*All meetings are open to the public. If local organizations wish to present to the Amherst Youth Town Council they must previously inform the elected Junior Mayor of their presentation plans.
4. \*All members of the Amherst Youth Town Council are required to notify a member of the executive committee if they are to miss a meeting. If two meetings are missed without regrets sent, the committee will discuss attendance improvement for that individual.