



## AMHERST TOWN COUNCIL

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

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

**DATE:** February 4, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Dickey Park Field Development – **Carry Over**

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**ORIGIN:** 2018-19 Capital Budget (prior year carry over)

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY:** MGA, Section 65 ( ag ) Power to expend money states: “The council may expend money required by the municipality for ... playgrounds, trails, including trails developed, operated or maintained pursuant to an agreement made under clause 59(c), bicycle paths, swimming pools, ice arenas and other recreational facilities;

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the 2019-20 capital budget item “Multi-Purpose Playing Field –Dickey Park carry over 47, 203. Remaining funds of \$47,203 will be spent on Goal Posts, Soccer Nets and Players Benches.

**BACKGROUND:** Over the past several years, the growth of field sports, particularly youth soccer and football programs, have identified a lack of proper sports fields in Amherst and Cumberland County. While there are several fields on school grounds, municipally-owned facilities were either non-existent, or considered poor quality. In response, a 2011 Sportsplex Needs Assessment and a 2012 All-Weather Sports Field Feasibility Study were completed. These studies indicated a need and support for an artificial turf facility for the Cumberland region, with cost estimates ranging from \$1.2 – \$5 million depending on the size and features of the facility.

Subsequently, the Cumberland Sportsplex Development Society evaluated potential locations for a facility, and Amherst Town Council earmarked \$350,000 in 2015 for its share of a facility construction cost. However the project, with the Municipality of Cumberland County and other levels of Government as needed partners, seemed to lose momentum. Meanwhile, a lack of sport field facilities remained.

To address the immediate need for a field, in January 2015 Council approved a \$40,869 +HST contract to Fundy Landscaping to create a regulation playing field by simply grading and seeding a portion of Dickey Park. Then in May 2015 the Federal Government announced a Canada 150 program, so Council directed staff to apply for a \$1.2 million artificial turf field project and put the initial contract on hold. In consultation with the Federal Government, the application was scaled back to \$180,000 project. This would include a sports field with engineered drainage system. This system is intended to allow use of the field earlier in spring, later in Fall, as well as, better resiliency after rain events during Summer.

As such, in August 2015 Council approved a total budget of \$179,839 +HST to construct a sports field with an engineered drainage system, and directed staff to apply to ACOA under the CIP 150 Program to fund 50% of the project. The Town’s application for funding was not successful;

however, the project would be completed as planned.



With non-recoverable tax included, the \$187,547 project includes the original \$42,620 contract with Fundy Landscaping. With all field work now complete at an actual cost of \$137,536, there remains \$47,203 in the project budget to purchase nets, goal posts, benches, and other furniture in 2018.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:** \$47,203 carried over from 2017-18 Capital Budget

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** There has been much community engagement regarding this project through user group meetings, focus groups and the Recreation Master Plan Process

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS:** There are no environmental implications

**SOCIAL JUSTICE IMPLICATIONS:** There are no social justice implications.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Defer another year.
2. Do not purchase at all.

**ATTACHMENTS:** N/A

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Report prepared by: Bill Schurman, Director of Recreation  
Report and Financial approved by: