

Internal Committee Report

Amherst Youth Town Council

April 2019

Over the last month AYTC has been involved in several matters. We met with the Baha'i group, a collection of youth from EB Chandler. Together we discussed in what ways we could affect positive change in their school and our community. One of their requests was the implementation of garbage, recycling and compost bins throughout the town, preferably on street corners and popular walking paths. This group has witnessed high levels of littering due to the inconvenience of having no nearby garbage, recycling and or compost bins. They have also brought to our attention issues with the skate park, expressing concern over the lack of an authoritative presence at the skate park. They informed us of an intimidation factor caused by older youth playing loud and aggressive music, and have asked us to speak to the Amherst Police Department to discuss a higher level of observation and presence at the skate park.

Cumberland Pride will be hosting a queer movie night at the Community Credit Union Business Innovation Center and has requested that AYTC supply nutritional snacks and beverages for this event. We are planning on serving popcorn, fruits and vegetables along with juice, all of which will be included in the entry price which has yet to be determined by Cumberland Pride.

The planning of our mental health week is well under way, we have outlined our plans for each day of the week and are now working to secure speakers and venues for our events. The events will be including both high school students and the community through various events. We have been in contact with the YMCA for hosting a pound class there, a speaker at the high school and a group session during lunch hour for those who wish to have more in depth conversations surrounding mental health and healthy coping mechanisms.

AYTC has been working with members in the community to draft a motion we would like to present to the Town Council tonight on ways we as both youth and adults can lower our town's carbon footprint and work against climate change, which is currently threatening our marsh that connects us to the rest of our country. AYTC has met and worked with leaders in climate change prevention within our area to create this document and we hope the Council understands the severity of our situation and are eager to work with us in contributing to the solution as much as our resources will allow.

Amherst Youth Town Council would like to put forward a motion that Amherst Town Council request that staff prepare a report and recommendations and return to Council within 90 days concerning:

1. The declaration of a Climate Emergency for the town of Amherst, Nova Scotia.
2. Create climate targets that meet the IPCC targets of a reduction by 45% of the 2010 carbon emissions by the year 2030 with net zero emissions by 2050 and net negative carbon

emissions through the second half of the century. And request the inclusion of these targets in the next update of the town's financial and infrastructure plan.

3. The creation of a sustainability plan for the Town of Amherst which includes:
 - a. Advancement of the Active Transport plan
 - b. Public transport from downtown to uptown
 - c. A restriction on single-use plastics within town boundaries
 - d. The utilization of sustainable and in place materials, i.e. Windmills, Tidal power, solar, etc.
 - e. The inclusion of the town's infrastructure, sewage treatment, buildings, water reservoir, well fields and the police and fire vehicle fleets.
4. The development of a carbon budget for the town of Amherst to limit warming to less than 1.5°C with an annual reporting period to guarantee the town stays under budget.
5. The council work with local organizations to develop their understanding of the current climate crisis and how they, as business owners, contribute to the crisis and how they can affect positive change and encourage these businesses to meet the same targets as what the town will work to meet which will ensure warming is limited to 1.5°C with an annual reporting process with respect to Amherst Town Council's carbon budget.
6. The establishment of a community group, which prioritizes youth voices, that supplies guidance and information to the residents of Amherst along with support for the Town to begin a transition off of fossil fuels in ways that will prioritize efficiency and the most vulnerable to climate equally.