

**Minutes of a Regular Meeting of Amherst Town Council
Held in Council Chambers
Monday, September 28, 2009 at 7:00 PM**

PRESENT: Mayor Rob Small
Deputy Mayor Robert Angel
Councillor George Baker
Councillor Robert Bird
Councillor Dale Fawthrop
Councillor David March
Councillor Terry Rhindress
Greg Herrett, CAO
Kim Jones, Executive Assistant

ATTENDING: Vince Arbing, Treasurer
Ben Pitman, Director of Transportation and Public Works
Jason MacDonald, Director of Planning and Engineering Services
Roger MacIsaac, Director of Community and Economic Development

1. O CANADA

2. HEARINGS / PRESENTATIONS

2.1 Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation

Council distributed certificates to individuals and organizations recognizing their contribution to the 2009 Four Fathers Festival.

2.2 Appeal Hearing – 197 Willow Street

Jason MacDonald described the purpose of the appeal hearing and read his report dated September 28, 2009. The variance was appealed by Gordon Milner. Mr. Milner is a resident of the County who owns land within 30 metres of the subject property. When asked by Councillor Baker if the only issue under appeal here is the four feet, Jason MacDonald replied yes, that the building is legal on any part of the lot, provided the setbacks are satisfied.

The owner of the subject property, Keith Thompson, said it was not his intention to raise the ire of his neighbours. He said he had talked with Mr. Milner, who feels it will impact his land; he disagrees with Mr. Milner, and suggested that delays are costing him money. He is working towards a master plan for property, and if the 4 foot variance is denied, the corner of another building will be obscured.

The CAO read one piece of correspondence from concerned citizens: Gordon Milner, John MacKay, Boyd Taylor, Marjorie Milner, Terri McKillop and Ken Milner, objecting to the positioning of the building.

Gordon Milner addressed Council, indicating that he represented six residents of the area. Mr. Milner's main objection is that the back of the building is to be facing the street. He thanked Mr. Thompson for cleaning up his property, adding that 40% of County visitors travel past this property. He distributed photos to Council, saying that if Mr. Thompson wants to be a good neighbour, he won't put the back side of the building to the street. When asked by Deputy Mayor Angel if the neighbours would be satisfied if Mr. Thompson turned the building around, Mr. Milner replied that it is getting to look junky. Councillor Baker responded to Mr. Milner that, even if he moved it back the 1.3 meters, he could still have it backwards.

This concluded the appeal hearing.

3. CALL TO ORDER

3.1 Additions to Agenda

M-0909-01

Moved by Deputy Mayor Angel, seconded by Councillor Baker that the following items be added to the agenda: 4A. Variance Appeal; 4B. Audited Financial Statements; 4.11 Lamp Posts and Lights for Dickey Park; and 8.8 Chamber of Commerce.

MOTION CARRIED

3.2 Approval of Agenda

M-0909-02

Moved by Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor March to approve the agenda as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

- 3.3 Approval of Minutes M-0906-02
Moved by Councillor Rhindress, seconded by Deputy Mayor Angel to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2009 regular meeting, the July 8, 2009 special meeting, the July 20, 2009 special meeting, and the August 27, 2009 special meeting as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

4. REQUESTS FOR DECISION

- 4A. Variance Appeal M-0909-03
Moved by Councillor March, seconded by Councillor Fawthrop that Council deny the appeal and uphold the variance granted for 197 Willow Street.

MOTION CARRIED

- 4B. Audited Financial Statements M-0909-04 & 05
 The CAO presented the financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2009 and reviewed them with Council.

Gary Bickerton presented the Auditor’s Report, which he described as an unqualified report, stating that it is the auditor’s opinion that the statements present fairly in all material respects. He acknowledged that Town staff prepared the statements, which were then audited by Jorgensen Bickerton.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Angel, seconded by Councillor March that Council accept the Consolidated Financial Statements for the Town of Amherst to March 31, 2009 and the Conventional Amherst Water Utility Financial Statements to March 31, 2009, both of which have been audited by Gary Bickerton, CA from the firm of Jorgensen Bickerton, as recommended by the Audit Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Deputy Mayor Angel, seconded by Councillor Rhindress that Council re-appoint the firm Jorgensen Bickerton as the Auditors for the Town for the fiscal year April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010, as recommended by the Audit Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

- 4.1 Policy: Salary Administration – Amendment, RFD#2009081 M-0909-06
Moved by Councillor March, seconded by Councillor Baker that Council approve an amendment to the Salary Administration Policy, #4530-01, Appendix C-3, to increase the base scale of School Crossing Guards to \$10.75 per hour and make minor housekeeping changes to the rate scales of “Ice Marshall” and “Other” to ensure consistency in the hourly rates.

MOTION CARRIED

Town of Amherst
 Hourly Rate Scale - Casual
 April 1, 2009

APPENDIX C - 3

Job Title	Hourly Rate				
	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5
Casual Firefighter	14.96	15.22	15.48	15.74	16.00
Jail Guards	10.75	11.11	11.48	11.84	12.26
Canine Control Officer	10.75	11.11	11.48	11.84	12.26
School Crossing Guards	10.75	11.11	11.48	11.84	12.26
Ice Marshall	10.69	11.05	11.42	11.78	12.20
Other	Provincial Minimum Wage				

- 4.2 Policy: Purchasing – Amendment, RFD#2009082 M-0909-07
Moved by Councillor March, seconded by Councillor Bird that Council approve amendments to the Purchasing Policy, #3700-01, bringing it into compliance with the Atlantic Procurement Agreement.

Purchasing Policy, Number 3700-01

1) Policy Statement

The purpose of this policy is to establish purchasing guidelines to ensure the most cost effective and cost efficient methods are used to purchase goods and services for the Town. The Town of Amherst will conduct purchasing practices in compliance with the Atlantic Procurement Agreement, and any amendments thereto.

2) Guiding Principles

The following principles will guide the purchasing practices of the Town of Amherst:

- a) Purchasing policy and procedures should provide the most cost efficient and cost effective methods to purchase.
- b) The purchasing process is to be open, fair and consistent.
- c) Purchasing methods are to encourage competitive bidding for the supply of goods and/or services.
- d) Purchasing policy provides for the use of suppliers, who can be expected to provide satisfactory performance, based on:
 - (i) past performance and/or previous contracts;
 - (ii) financial and other resources to complete the contract bid;
 - (iii) references.
- f) While it is recognized that this policy has no provision for "local preference" purchasers should ensure that local suppliers have an equal opportunity to participate in the competitive bidding process described in this policy.
- g) This policy does not address payments for recurring items such as utilities, leases, rentals and similar recurring operating charges, while recognizing that in some circumstances, the initial commitment that leads to these ongoing payments is subject to the provisions of this policy.

3) Definitions

- a) Bid – Refers to a competitive bid received from either a Request for Quotation (RFQ), Tender or Request for Proposal (RFP).
- b) Purchaser - a Town of Amherst employee with the authority to purchase goods.
- c) Public Request of Submission – refers to tenders, calls for proposals, two phase bids, etc. All such requests will be under the signature of the CAO.
- d) Purchase Card – a corporate visa card for the Town of Amherst with various restrictions and limits based on the cardholder.
- e) Requisition/Purchase Order – an electronically generated document for the supply of goods or services from an approved vendor.

4) General

- a) This policy applies to all departments, agencies, boards and commissions of the Town of Amherst over which the Town has jurisdiction.
- b) The purchasing of goods and services will be facilitated by the Department Head according to this policy.
- c) The Town of Amherst will be under no obligation to accept any bid received which is considered to be not in its best interest, in response to a verbal or written request.
- d) The Town may work with other levels of government, other agencies, boards and commissions, and associations such as the FCM (Federation of Canadian Municipalities) and the UNSM (Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities) to encourage standardization of items and/or to reduce overall costs to the Town.

5) Authority of the Chief Administrative Officer

- a) The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) may authorize the purchase of goods or services that are less than \$30,000, provided such purchases are made in accordance with this policy and fall within the thresholds established within The Atlantic Procurement Agreement and all subsequent amendments thereto, and are included within the approved budget.
- b) The CAO may authorize procedures consistent with this policy and may delegate the authority under this policy.

6) Purchasing Guidelines

The following guidelines will be followed for the purchase of goods and services for the Town:

- a) Up to \$5,000 – may be purchased by the department in accordance with the principles in this policy.
- b) More than \$5,000 but less than \$15,000 – Where three or more suppliers exist, at least three written quotations will be solicited by the Purchaser. The requisition is to be authorized by the Department Head of the user department (or designate) and the funds are to be clearly identified in the approved operating or capital budget.
- c) More than \$15,000 but less than \$30,000 – Where three or more suppliers exist, at least three written quotations will be solicited by the Purchaser. The Purchaser will post these opportunities on the Town of Amherst website and the Nova Scotia Procurement website as appropriate. The requisition is to be authorized by the Department Head (or designate) of the user department and the funds are to be clearly identified in the approved operating or capital budget.

- d) \$30,000 or greater – the Purchaser will issue a public request for submissions or by issue of invitation only with approval by CAO. The acquisitions will be advertised in one or more publications of general circulation and on the Town of Amherst website and the Nova Scotia Procurement website as appropriate. Tenders posted in this range will be acknowledged at a public opening at a designated date and time, and forwarded to Council for approval on the recommendation of the relevant Department Head. The requisition is to be authorized by the CAO and the funds are to be clearly identified in approved operating or capital budget.

7. Methods of Purchasing

The following are the methods of purchasing to be used under this policy:

- a) Low Value – Purchases that are random in nature and not included in a price agreement under the value of \$5,000 may be purchased by the department, using a purchase order or Town of Amherst purchase card.
- b) Tenders – An invitation to tender solicits competitive bids. It is used when detailed specifications are available that permit the evaluation of tenders against clearly stated criteria and specifications. A request for tenders is a formal, competitive, sealed bidding process. Bid deposits and performance security may be required. The award is normally to the lowest bid received from a responsible bidder meeting the requirements of the tender. Tender purchases shall be made by purchase order. Tenders must be opened in the presence of at least one elected official and the CAO or his/her designate at a time and location that is open to the public.
- c) Two Phase Bids – Where detailed specifications are not available or it is impractical to prepare a specification based on price, a two phase bid may be issued, inviting for the submission of bids as follows:
- i) Phase One – Pre-qualification step in which bidders submit proposals/expressions of interest in response to a basic terms of reference for evaluation;
 - ii) Phase Two – Those bidders whose submissions were determined to be acceptable in Phase One will be invited to submit priced bids for further consideration.

This type of purchasing has the advantage of a request for proposal in Phase One and the advantages of a tender in Phase Two. Two phase bid purchases shall be made by purchase order.

- d) Request for Proposal
- i) A request for proposal is a formal invitation to suppliers to describe how their services, methods, equipment or products can address and/or meet specific needs of the Town. It is used when a supplier is invited to propose a solution to a problem, requirement, or objective. Unlike tenders Request for Proposals are compared to each other to assess the best proposal, and to the terms of the RFP to determine if any should be accepted.
 - ii) Negotiations may be conducted with bidders after the date for the receipts of proposals provided such discussion and negotiations are conducted to:
 - i. Award equitable treatment to each acceptable bidder with respect to an opportunity for discussion and the revision of the proposal.
 - ii. Prevent the disclosure of the content of the discussion or negotiations with one bidder to another bidder.
 - iii) Proposals submitted in response to a request for proposal need not be opened in public. A list of the submissions will be available to the public and the proponents upon request.
 - iv) An award of a contract based upon a request for proposals will be made to the supplier, whose proposal is determined to be the most advantageous to the Town based upon criteria for evaluation set out in the request for proposals and equitably applied to all proposals.
 - v) RFP purchases shall be made by purchase order.

e) Request for quotation

A request for quotation is an informal request for prices for goods and services and is normally used where bid deposit and performance bonds are not required and where the cost of the work does not warrant the time and level of effort required for a formal tender process. Quotations should be written. RFQ purchases shall be made by purchase order.

f) Negotiations

- i) Negotiations with one or more suppliers for the supply of goods and/or services would take place when any of the following conditions exist:
 - i. Due to market conditions, goods and/or services are in short supply;
 - ii. There is only one source of the goods or services;
 - iii. All bids received are not acceptable or exceed the amount budgeted for the purchase;

- iv. The extension or reinstatement of existing contract would be more cost effective or beneficial to the Town. The extension or reinstatement of existing contract is subject to the approvals listed in section 8 – Award of Contracts.
- v. When authorized by Council.

g) Sole Source Purchases

- i) This occurs when there is only one available supplier of a required product or service that meets the needs of the Town. Negotiation is the method of purchase used to complete the terms and conditions for this purchase. A single source purchase occurs:
 - i. Where the compatibility of a purchase with existing equipment, facilities or service is a paramount consideration and the purchase must be made from a single source;
 - ii. Where an item is purchased for testing or trial use;
 - iii. Where the Town purchases supplies for resale;
 - iv. Where the Town has a rental contract with a purchase option and such purchase option could be beneficial to the Town;
- ii) Notwithstanding anything in this policy, where a purchase is determined by Council to be fair and reasonable and is made from a non-profit corporation supported by the Town, the Purchaser may make such a purchase as a single source purchase;
- iii) Where items are offered for sale by tender, auction or negotiation such purchase will be deemed to be a single source purchase and the CAO may authorize the submission of a bid or the conduct of negotiations where the CAO determines the purchase to be clearly in the best interest of the Town.

h) Emergency Purchases

- i) An emergency purchase occurs when a situation creates immediate and serious need which may not be reasonably met by any other procedure and includes without limitation:
 - i. A condition where lack of supplies or services may adversely affect the functioning of civic government, threaten public or private property or the environment, or jeopardize the health or safety of the public;
 - ii. Interim contractual arrangements following the expiration; or breach of a contract; or the receipt of unacceptable or uncompetitive bids.
 - iii. Emergency purchases are completed using the most expedient method, but will take economy into consideration.
- ii) Emergency purchases must be pre-approved by the CAO (or designate) where such approval may be reasonably sought.

8. Award of Contracts

- a) All publicly advertised tenders and request for proposals shall be presented to the CAO for approval and/or recommendation to Council.
- b) Awards less than \$30,000 can be approved by the CAO in conjunction with the user department.
 - i) Where the funds and program have been approved by Council as part of the annual business planning and budget process and the expenditure will not result in an over-expenditure of the entire budget.
 - ii) Where the purchase was the result of a public purchasing process conforming to the Town's purchasing policy and The Atlantic Procurement Agreement.
 - iii) Where the tender is awarded to a supplier with the lowest cost, or highest revenue, meeting specifications.
 - iv) Where the award of a Request for Proposal is made to the highest scoring proponent based upon evaluation criteria within the Request for Proposal.
 - v) Where the award does not exceed the limits established in the Atlantic Procurement Agreement for the purchase of goods, equipment, services or construction.
 - a. Where the award does not exceed \$10,000 for consulting services.
 - b. Where there is no legislative requirement to obtain Council approval.
- c) Awards over the value of \$30,000 will be submitted to Council for approval.
- d) A quarterly report to Council of awards of contracts over the value of \$30,000 approved by the CAO or designate shall be made available to Council and shall show the name of the contract, the name of the successful bidder, the amount of award, any person or company to whom a single or sole source has awarded, the amount of award and the budgetary provision.

9. Supplier Performance

- a) Suppliers may be subject to disqualifications if there is sufficient evidence of consistent failure to meet the standards specified by the Town. Suppliers may be evaluated based on competitive price, quality of a product, contract adherence and performance and after sales service. Upon reasonable notice in writing to the supplier involved, and after a reasonable opportunity for response, a supplier can be disqualified for a period not exceeding three years from participation in solicitation for goods and services when:
 - i) Serious breach of contract indicating unwillingness to perform a contract in accordance with the terms and conditions or specifications or a record of unsatisfactory performance of one or more contracts in accordance with its specifications or both.
 - ii) The offer of any gratuity to an official or employee of the Town by a supplier or contractor for consideration.
- b) A written decision shall be issued to the person disqualified or suspended setting out its reasons for disqualification or suspension, to the usual business address of that person as shown in the records of the purchasing section.
- c) Disqualification will be approved by the CAO.

10. Contract Documents, Bid and Performance Securities and Specifications

- a) The CAO may, from time to time, approve such standard forms including bid and performance securities, if any, for purchase by Invitation to Tender, Request for Proposals, Request for Quotations, sole source, or emergency purchases as well as forms of contract for types of purchase including but not limited to construction, supplies and installation or service as they may deem advisable.
- b) Bid bonds, performance bonds, irrevocable letters of credit and other securities including labour and material bonds shall be required for such purposes in such form and in such amounts as the CAO deems advisable.

11. Special Services

- a) Legal Services - Legal services will be acquired by staff based upon qualifications, experience, services offered, past performance, proposed fees and other relevant considerations. The acquisition of legal services must be approved by the CAO in consultation with the Department Head(s) of the user department(s). (These services include expert witnesses, and subject experts required for legal proceeding, hearing or similar matter.) Legal services having a value of \$10,000 or more shall be approved by Council. The term for legal services will be at the pleasure of the Town.
- b) Banking Services – General banking services will be acquired by public advertisement and will continue at the pleasure of the Town.
- c) Auditing Services – These services may be contracted on a one year term to be renewed on an annual basis on terms satisfactory to the Town. Selection of an auditor shall be completed by the Audit Committee of Council who will recommend the selection of an auditor to Council. Annual renewal of the contract for audit services will be made by the Audit Committee.

12. Tie Bids

After the assessment process is complete and it cannot be reasonably determined who has submitted the lowest compliant bid and a tie exists, the Purchaser shall flip a coin to determine the award.

13. Suppliers indebted to the Town of Amherst

Any supplier/contractor having a customer account with the Town of Amherst, which is in arrears, will have such arrears deducted from any payments due to the supplier/contractor. Such deduction may be waived by the CAO, where the supplier/contractor has entered into a payment arrangement deemed to be suitable by the Treasurer.

14. Purchases by Town of Amherst Employees

Employees or immediate family members (husband, wife, son, daughter) of employees of the Town of Amherst are not permitted to purchase personal use items through the purchasing system except where employee purchase plans are being offered.

**4.3 By-Law at 1st Reading: Amend Tax Exemption By-Law, RFD#2009083 M-0909-08
Moved by Councillor March , seconded by Councillor Rhindress that Council give
second reading and enactment to By-Law B-1-3, a by-law to amend the Tax Exemption
By-Law.**

MOTION CARRIED

BY-LAW TO AMEND THE TAX EXEMPTION BY-LAW (B-1)

The Town of Amherst Tax Exemption By-law (B-1) approved by Council on the 23rd day of April 2001, with amendments to March 27, 2006, September 24, 2007 and June 22, 2009 is hereby amended as follows:

1. SCHEDULE "A"

Add Bridge Adult Services Society to the schedule. This property has been re-classified from commercial exempt to commercial taxable for the 2009 fiscal year. The property was also re-assessed to include both the value of the new building and land as per a recent filed roll change received from Property Valuation Services Corporation.

4.4 Tender: Library Roof, RFD#2009084 M-0909-09

Councillor Baker declared a potential conflict, and excused himself from the Council table for discussion and voting on this issue.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Angel, seconded by Councillor Rhindress that Council award the tender for the replacement of the Library room to P. R. Gilroy Construction at their low tender bid of \$44,000 plus HST.

MOTION CARRIED

4.5 Integrated Community Sustainability Plan, RFD#2009085 M-0909-10

Moved by Councillor Fawthrop, seconded by Councillor Bird That Council adopt the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan for the Town of Amherst.

MOTION CARRIED

**Town of Amherst
Integrated Community Sustainability Plan
September 28, 2009**

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Preface

This document is the official submission by the Town of Amherst for the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan requirement of the Municipal Funding Agreement (MFA) signed by the Town and Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations. The MFA sets the terms and conditions of the federal government transfer of funds equivalent to a portion of the federal excise tax on gasoline.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to fulfill the obligation to submit an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan contained in the Municipal Funding Agreement outlined above. Further, this plan will summarize the interconnected environmental, social, cultural, and economic development objectives and policies contained within the Town of Amherst Municipal Planning Strategy and other relevant policy documents.

1.3 Basis

This document is based on the guidelines contained in the "Integrated Community Sustainability Plans – Municipal Funding Agreement for Nova Scotia" document prepared by Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, September 2007.

Given the comprehensive nature of the Town's current Municipal Planning Strategy it is the opinion of Amherst Town Council that this MPS satisfies the criteria to also be the official Integrated Community Sustainability Plan for the Town.

2.0 Development of the Town of Amherst MPS

2.1 Preparation of the Municipal Planning Strategy

The MPS was developed by the Town of Amherst Planning Advisory Committee with the support of the Planning and Development Department along with various other Town resources where appropriate. The document was prepared in 2004 / 2005 and was officially approved by the Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations in August of 2005. The development of the MPS was conducted in four phases:

Phase 1	Development of Vision and Goals with Public Input
Phase 2	Preparation of Background Information
Phase 3	Development of Draft Document
Phase 4	Public Input and Council Consideration for Adoption

2.2 Purpose of the Municipal Planning Strategy

As stated in the MPS, "The Town of Amherst Municipal Planning Strategy establishes the broad framework and policy guidance to manage future growth and development within the Town. The Strategy should be used as a guide when making major decisions on the provision of municipal services or the use of land within the Town."

2.3 Public Consultation

At the outset of the development of the MPS, the Planning Advisory Committee decided that public input would drive the process. Therefore, the first action of the Committee was to obtain public input. Included in the public participation program was a general public meeting as well as meetings with specific stakeholder groups. In all cases the public was educated on the purpose of the MPS and were asked to provide input on their vision for Amherst as well as specific issues within the Town they wanted to see addressed in the policies of the final document. Stakeholder groups included, but were not limited to:

- Elementary school children
- Junior high school children
- Major landowners
- Business owners
- Local service groups
- Local business associations

- Elected Representatives
- Local Community Economic Development Association

Once a draft of the municipal planning strategy was developed based on the input of the above groups they, along with the general public, were invited to an open house to view the document and provide further input.

A final public consultation was conducted in the form of an official public hearing as required by the Municipal Government Act prior to the adoption of the MPS.

2.4 Further Public Consultations

In conjunction with amendments to the MPS since its initial adoption, public participation sessions were held and public hearings conducted on the following matters:

- Policies to permit long term care facilities by development agreement, and
- Policies to permit limited ground floor residential opportunities within the Downtown Commercial zone by development agreement

2.5 Integration of Sustainability Principals

Sustainability principals are not stand alone issues. All facets of municipal operations impact our sustainability, and sustainability impacts all aspects of municipal operations. Therefore, sustainability principals have been integrated throughout the entire Municipal Planning Strategy. They are evident in the Vision Statement, Goals, Objects and Individual Policies of the various strategy elements of the Plan.

2.6 Vision Statement Resulting From Public Consultations

A Future Vision for Amherst

In the year 2020 Amherst will be a prosperous community, one in which all residents will be able to fulfill their individual career aspirations. Amherst will be a town that proudly projects its role as the centre of retail and commercial trade in Cumberland County, Nova Scotia and Westmoreland County, New Brunswick. Amherst will grow to be an economically self sustaining community, while at the same time maintaining its existing small town charm and ambiance.

Population growth within the town will be moderate. The population itself will be slightly older as the existing baby boom generation continues to age. However, through its high quality of life, employment opportunities and cultural amenities, Amherst will retain its younger generation as they enter the workforce; as well, younger professional families will be attracted to live in the Town. As such, housing developments and recreational opportunities will reflect the needs and the age diversity of our community.

Amherst will be a safe community where residents of all ages feel comfortable at all times. Amherstonians will proudly reflect "Maritime hospitality and friendliness".

Amherst will have quality municipal 'social services'. The town will strive to continually update and upgrade our social, recreational and cultural services, and will collaborate, where and when appropriate, with other stakeholders to support the regional municipal services.

Amherstonians will be custodians of the local environment. Our waterways will be clean, our air pure and our waste minimized. Our streets will be lined with trees and our parks clean and green. Our public open spaces will be linked together by a walking trail system which will promote recreation, a healthy lifestyle and environmental sustainability.

Amherst's residential areas will be its most significant built asset. Older areas of town will proudly maintain their heritage architecture, and will receive timely infrastructure upgrades to maintain the existing high quality living environment. Newer areas of town will be well planned communities providing a diversity of housing types for all income levels. New subdivisions will include excellent infrastructure, and will be connected to our first class parks system.

The town's commercial areas will be vibrant and prosperous, offering a full array of products and services to town residents and visitors alike. The downtown area will be the focus of specialty retail, new office and government employment. It will be well accessible by vehicle and at the same time pedestrian friendly. The downtown will host various community events and as such it will be the cultural focus of the community.

The Downtown core will be complimented by the South Albion / Robert Angus Drive commercial – retail area. This area will be a regional scale full service shopping destination. It will be vehicular oriented with safe and efficient pedestrian links to the residential areas of the Town.

The Amherst and Area Industrial Park will see significant new business activity and will undergo a complete expansion, opening up new areas for industrial development. Such development will be clean and environmentally friendly and focused on exporting Amherst made products to the rest of the world.

The town corporate will be well managed, providing quality leadership and cost effective services to residents and business. Our citizens will take the initiative to ensure that we define our own destiny.

In the year 2020 Amherst will be a prosperous, progressive town, one in which all residents can achieve their lifelong goals. Like today, in the year 2020, Amherstonians will be proud to call Amherst home.

2.7 Specific Goals Resulting From Public Consultations

Provincial Context

1. To have a significant positive impact on the Provincial economy.
2. To be one of a number of significant growth centers in the province.
3. To capitalize on the significant tourism potential of being the first town on the Trans Canada Highway in Nova Scotia.
4. To strengthen the Town's role as a leader in the provision of efficient municipal services in N.S.

Regional Context

5. To strengthen the town's role as the centre of commercial and retail trade in Cumberland County.
6. To capture a greater share of the regional housing market.

7. To strengthen the town's role as the social, cultural and recreational centre of Cumberland County.

Economic Context

8. To continually improve and diversify the town's economy.

Physical Context

9. To support a healthy natural environment, at a local and regional level, through the cooperative stewardship of shared resources.
 10. To provide diversified physical recreational facilities to the residents of the Town.
 11. To provide adequate and efficient municipal services which will sustain existing development as well as facilitate new development.
 12. To provide a safe, efficient and diversified transportation system.
 13. To facilitate a mix of quality housing types which reflect the diversified needs, income levels, ages and lifestyles of Town residents.
 14. To ensure an adequate supply of quality land exists for all land uses.
 15. To encourage and facilitate a vibrant and diversified downtown core.
 16. To encourage and facilitate the preservation of the historical integrity of the built environment.

Social Context

17. To provide a safe, clean living environment for the residents of the Town.
 18. To provide adequate quality outdoor gathering places for public functions.

3. Sustainability Principals

3.1 Introduction to Sustainability Principals

As indicated in the Municipal Funding Agreement the four pillars of sustainability are environmental, social, economic and cultural.

The Town of Amherst Municipal Planning Strategy addresses these four pillars through its various strategy elements. The MPS is divided into a number of Strategy Elements, including:

- General Land Use and Development
- Residential
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Municipal Services
- Transportation
- Recreation
- Environment

Sustainability principals can be found in the objectives and policies of each of these strategy elements. Therefore, the sustainability principals (objectives and policies) of each strategy element will be listed here separately. Further, it is not the intention to detail how each objective and / or policy relates to the four pillars of sustainability as generally this relationship is rather straight forward and self explanatory.

The sustainability principals of each strategy element are inter-related with those contained in all other strategy elements. Sustainability principals within the residential section of the plan are dependant upon those in the transportation and municipal services sections of the plan and vice versa. Furthermore, in order to get a true appreciation of how the MPS incorporates and integrates the various sustainability principals, one must become familiar with the unique geographic structure of the Town and the various built resources within.

3.2 Sustainability Principals

In this section, only those objectives and policies that directly pertain to one or more of the four pillars of sustainability will be referenced. For details on all objectives and policies, please refer to the official Municipal Planning Strategy.

3.2.1 General Land Use and Development

Objectives

A - To facilitate the efficient growth and development of the town

Policies

*Efficient
Development*

- GP-4** It shall be the intention of Council to ensure that growth and development within the Town is efficient and cost effective by:
- (a) facilitating the contiguous expansion of the built up areas of the Town;
 - (b) limiting development in un-serviced areas of the Town;
 - (c) concentrating new development in adequately serviced and properly planned areas;
 - (d) encouraging and facilitating infill development on underutilized properties within the built up area of town.

*Facilitate
Development*

- GP-5** It shall be the intention of Council to facilitate the future development of the Town by making necessary improvements to the Town's infrastructure in conjunction with, or advance of future development.

3.2.2 Residential

Objectives

- (b) To ensure that the design and development of residential areas provides for a quality living environment;
- (c) To encourage residential infill development on appropriate under-utilized lands;

- (d) To ensure that future residential development occurs in suitable locations with adequate water, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, transportation and recreational services available;
- (e) To ensure that specific residential development is not premature by means of servicing, transportation, schools, recreational facilities and the like;
- (g) To encourage the conservation, retention and improvement of the existing housing stock;
- (h) To encourage the conservation, retention and improvement of the historically and / or architecturally significant residential buildings and streetscapes.

Incremental Residential Development Policies

<i>Housing Mix</i>	RP-8 It shall be the intention of Council to encourage a mix of housing densities in all residential areas of town to encourage a mix of housing types and income groups in all residential areas.
<i>Medium and High Density By Development Agreement</i>	RP-9 Within the Residential Designation, it shall be the intention of Council to ensure medium and high density residential development occur in a manner compatible with a low density residential neighbourhood. Specifically, Council shall require that all residential developments greater than 4 dwelling units per property, be subject to a Development Agreement. In negotiating such an agreement Council shall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) ensure that the structure is located on the lot in such a manner as to limit potential impacts on surrounding low density residential developments; (b) ensure that the development provides sufficient on-site parking, and appropriate access to, and egress from the street; (c) ensure that the location of parking facilities does not dominate the surrounding area, including the utilization of vegetation and fences to mitigate the aesthetic impacts of parking lots; (d) ensure that any on site outdoor lighting does not negatively impact the surrounding properties; (e) ensure that any signage on the property is sympathetic to the surrounding residential properties; (f) require the use of vegetation to improve the aesthetic quality of the development; (g) ensure that the architecture of the building is sympathetic to any existing development in the surrounding area.
<i>Neighbourhood Stabilization</i>	RP-10 It shall be the intention of Council to provide for the stabilization of existing residential neighborhoods by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) encouraging the maintenance and rehabilitation of the existing housing stock; (b) discouraging the encroachment of non-compatible land uses; (c) avoiding 'spot zoning' amendments to the Land Use Bylaw; (d) encouraging the re-location of existing non-compatible land uses; (e) enforcing the "Dangerous and Unightly Premises" section of the MGA.
<i>Affordable Housing</i>	RP-11 It shall be the intention of Council to encourage and promote the provision of affordable housing units within all residential areas of the Town by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) encouraging a mix of housing types and densities; (b) permitting secondary apartments in all dwelling units; (c) permitting a secondary residential structure (Garden Suite) on a lot; (d) cooperating with Federal and Provincial Governments to facilitate affordable housing within the Town.
<i>Residential Area Design</i>	RP-12 It shall be the intention of Council to ensure that new residential areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) provide for the efficient use of land; (b) provide for the efficient and economic extension of existing water, storm sewer and sanitary sewer systems and other utilities; (c) incorporates a hierarchy of streets that efficiently and safely accommodates traffic flows and proper access to other areas of Town; (d) provides for the efficient and safe movement of pedestrians and cyclists; (e) minimizes adverse effects on the environment; (f) provides for parks and other community uses in safe and central locations.
<i>Garden Suites</i>	RP-14 It shall be the intention of Council to permit Garden Suites in all Residential areas by Development Agreement. In negotiating such an agreement Council shall have regard for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the garden suite be secondary to the main dwelling on the lot; (b) water and sewer services be provided independent from the main dwelling; (c) two off street parking spaces be provided on the property; (d) the garden suite be a minimum of 1.2 metres from the side property lines; (e) the garden suite be a minimum of 6 metres from the rear property line; (f) the garden suite be a minimum of 1.2 metres from the main dwelling; (g) the garden suite not be located in the front yard of the property; (h) no home occupation, group home, boarding house, day care or other such secondary use be permitted on the property; (i) the development agreement be discharged should the garden suite be removed from the property.

<i>Home Occupations</i>	RP-15 It shall be the intention of Council to permit Home Occupations in all residential areas and shall prescribe regulations in the Land Use Bylaw that: (a) ensure the use in secondary to the main residential use on the lot; (b) ensure that the type of home occupation is compatible with residential neighborhoods; (c) specifically regulate such things as floor area, number of employees, hours of operation, accessory buildings, parking, exterior alterations, outdoor storage, signage, and obnoxious uses.
<i>Residential Day Cares</i>	RP-17 It shall be the intention of Council to permit Residential Day Care Operations in all residential areas and shall prescribe regulations in the Land Use Bylaw that: (a) ensure the use in secondary to the main residential use on the lot; (b) ensure the use is compatible with residential neighborhoods.
<i>Local Commercial Centres</i>	RP-18 It shall be the intention of Council to provide convenient local commercial centres in all residential areas of town. Council shall, in the Land Use Bylaw create the Local Commercial Centre Zone and apply the zone to all existing local convenience stores, or other property Council feels should be so zoned in order to provide a local commercial convenience function to the surrounding area. The Local Commercial Centre Zone shall contain regulations to ensure that the use of the property does not pose a negative impact on the local neighbourhood by: (a) permitting uses that mainly serve the local area such as retail, daycares, take out restaurants or other similar uses; (b) the utilization of vegetation to improve the aesthetic quality of the development; (c) ensuring that adequate parking facilities are provided on site; (d) not permitting a drive-thru component to the development. It shall further be the intention of Council not to rezone any property in town to the Local Commercial Centre Zone as of the date of the passing of this bylaw.

3.2.3 Commercial

Objectives

- (c) To foster the development of the Downtown commercial core as the focus of specialty retail, new office, government employment and cultural amenities;
- (e) To ensure that commercial development is adequately serviced with various transportation facilities, including parking facilities;
- (f) To encourage the conservation, retention and improvement of the historically and / or architecturally significant commercial buildings and streetscapes.

Policies

<i>Commercial Area Aesthetics</i>	CP-7 It shall be the intention of Council to promote a high degree of aesthetics in all commercial areas. Provisions within the Land Use Bylaw for various commercial zones will include measures to regulate the following items to a degree appropriate to each zone: (a) signage; (b) landscaping; (c) location of buildings on a lot; (d) setbacks and yards; (e) parking and access and egress from a street.
<i>Office Development</i>	CP-8 It shall be the intention of Council that the downtown core be the primary focus of new office development. The Land Use Bylaw will contain provisions to encourage new office development to locate in the Downtown Commercial zone.
<i>Downtown and Uptown cooperation</i>	CP-9 It shall be the intention of Council, to encourage cooperation between the downtown and uptown commercial areas so as to allow each area to benefit the other and work together to enhance the overall commercial viability of the entire town.
<i>Downtown Development by Development Agreement (Heritage)</i>	CP-10 It shall be the intention of Council to consider applications for new commercial development within the Downtown Commercial zone which shares a property line more or less perpendicular to the street with a heritage property designated under any relevant legislation by development agreement. In negotiating such a development agreement, Council shall ensure that: (a) the facades of any proposed development are architecturally sympathetic to the next door heritage property; (b) that the ground floor of the proposed development be designed to promote pedestrian convenience and interest.

<i>Downtown Development by Development Agreement (Area)</i>	<p>CP-11 It shall be the intention of Council to consider applications for new commercial development within the Downtown Commercial zone which has a ground floor area in excess of 1,500 square metres by development agreement.</p> <p>In negotiating such a development agreement, Council shall ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the ground floor of the proposed development be designed to promote pedestrian convenience and interest; (b) any parking facilities provided on the site be designed and located to promote pedestrian convenience and interest, and generally be at the back of the property; (c) the location, height, bulk and design of the building takes into account the surrounding streetscape and building designs.
<i>DA Automobile Uses in Downtown Commercial Zone</i>	<p>CP-13 Within the Downtown Commercial zone , it shall be the intention of Council to require that all motor vehicle related uses, including, but not limited to, motor vehicle repair, sales and fueling stations, as well as any drive thru establishment, be subject to a Development Agreement. In negotiating such an agreement Council shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) ensure that the development provides sufficient on-site parking, and appropriate access to, and egress from the street; (b) ensure that the location of parking facilities does not dominate the surrounding area, including the utilization of vegetation and fences to mitigate the aesthetic impacts of parking lots; (c) ensure that any on site outdoor lighting does not negatively impact the surrounding properties; (d) require the use of vegetation to improve the aesthetic quality of the development.
<i>Site Plan Sidewalk Patios in Downtown Commercial Zone</i>	<p>CP-14 Within the Downtown Commercial zone , it shall be the intention of Council to require that all sidewalk patios, be subject to a Site Plan Agreement. In negotiating such an agreement the Development Officer shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) ensure that the patio area does not extend beyond the frontage of the associated building; (b) ensure that an area at least 1.2 metres in width shall be maintained to permit the unhindered passage of pedestrians; (c) ensure that the sidewalk patio is not installed prior to May 1st and removed no later than October 31st each year; (d) ensure that the owner / occupant keep and maintain the allocated portion of the sidewalk in a clean and sanitary state; (e) ensure that all other relevant Town Bylaws are satisfied; (f) obtain input and comment from the Town Engineer and Traffic Authority where appropriate.

3.2.4 Industrial

Objectives

- (a) To facilitate industrial development within the town to diversify our economy and ensure that the employment requirements of Town residents are satisfied within the Town;
- (b) To facilitate the continued development of the Amherst Industrial Park, in a manner compatible with the surrounding area;
- (c) To set aside future industrial lands to satisfy the anticipated industrial requirements for the 20 year planning horizon;
- (d) To concentrate all industrial development in adequately planned and serviced industrial areas.

INDUSTRIAL POLICIES

<i>Industrial Park Zone</i>	<p>IP-3 It shall be the intention of Council to include in the Land Use Bylaw an Industrial Park zone. This zone shall be applied to all lands owned by the Amherst and Area Industrial Park. This zone will permit a range of industrial uses appropriate to a fully serviced, modern industrial park area. Specifically, no heavy, polluting industry will be permitted within the Industrial Park Zone.</p> <p>It shall further be the intention of Council to include in the Land Use Bylaw provisions to regulate signage, setbacks, building height and bulk, parking, landscaping within the Industrial Park zone.</p>
<i>Expanded Industrial Park</i>	<p>IP-5 It shall be the intention of Council, in partnership with industry and other levels of government, to extend water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer, and to re-construct Race Track Road to industrial park standards.</p>
<i>Expanded Industrial Park South of TCH</i>	<p>IP-6 It shall be the intention of Council, in partnership with local land owners and other levels government, to secure a road access to the area of the Amherst and Area Industrial Park on the south side of the Trans-Canada Highway. It shall further be the intention of Council to provide municipal water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer to this area when the land is required for industrial development.</p>

3.2.5 Municipal Services

Objectives

- (a) To require and facilitate logical, timely, and efficient extensions of all piped municipal services to un-serviced areas of town;
- (b) To work towards the eventual collection and treatment of all town sewage;
- (c) To continue to ensure the long term viability of the town's municipal water supply and distribution system;
- (d) To ensure that a long term capital works program is in place to address the timely upgrading and replacement of the existing town water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer systems;
- (e) To ensure an efficient solid waste collection system is in place.

Policies

<i>Service Extensions</i>	MS-1	It shall be the intention of Council to ensure that new development be located on incremental extensions of existing services, and that such existing services can handle the additional capacity generated by the new development.
<i>Service Capacity</i>	MS-2	It shall be the intention of Council to require that new municipal water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer services be built to a capacity capable of providing service to undeveloped lands beyond the immediate development area, when the development of such an area is dependant upon use of said services. It shall further be in the intention of Council to pay the incremental cost of such excess capacity and to recoup such costs upon development of the undeveloped lands outside the immediate development.
<i>Capital Works Program</i>	MS-5	It shall be the intention of Council to ensure that a long term capital works program is established and updated in order to ensure a plan is in place to improve and maintain the towns municipal services infrastructure.
<i>Sewage Treatment Plant</i>	MS-6	It shall be the intention of Council to work towards the development of a sewage treatment plant to be located on the Town owned property on the marsh as indicated on Map 2
<i>Municipal Water Supply</i>	MS-7	It shall be the intention of Council to continue to take the lead role in the protection of the long term viability of the North Tyndal Wellfield.
<i>MWS Cooperation</i>	MS-8	It shall be the intention of Council to continue to cooperate with the Municipality of the County of Cumberland regarding the protection of the North Tyndal Wellfield where appropriate.
<i>MWS Land Acquisition</i>	MS-9	It shall be the intention of Council to continue to acquire land within the North Tyndal wellfield as ownership opportunities present themselves.
<i>Backup MWS</i>	MS-10	It shall be the intention of Council to secure and protect an appropriate short term backup water supply(s) in the event that transmission from the North Tyndal Wellfield is interrupted or the supply compromised.
<i>In-fill Development</i>	MS-11	It shall be the intention of Council to encourage and facilitate the development of vacant land located on existing municipal services in order to make more efficient use of such services.
<i>Fire Flows</i>	MS-13	It shall be the intention of Council to require that all new development be located within 150 metres of a fire hydrant.
<i>Unserviced Development</i>	MS-14	It shall be the intention of Council to limit unserviced development within the town; specifically, no development should be permitted north of Victoria Street and east of Willow Street until municipal sanitary sewer services can be provided.

3.2.6 Transportation

Objectives

- (a) To establish and maintain an efficient system of public streets in order to facilitate traffic flow throughout the town.
- (b) To promote and facilitate pedestrian access to and within all new developments.
- (c) To provide an adequate supply of parking in the downtown commercial area.

Policies

<i>Capital Works Program</i>	T-2	It shall be the intention of Council to ensure that a long term capital works program is established and updated in order to ensure a plan is in place to improve and maintain the towns streets and transportation network.
<i>Sidewalks</i>	T-3	It shall be the intention of Council to improve pedestrian connections in the Town through the construction of new sidewalks, and the improvement of existing sidewalks.
<i>Barrier Free Access</i>	T-4	It shall be the intention of Council to ensure that all aspects of the transportation system incorporate barrier free access where appropriate.

<i>Traffic Monitoring</i>	T-5	It shall be the intention of Council to develop a system to monitor traffic flow in order to recognize requirements for changes or upgrading throughout the system.
<i>Street Access Improvements</i>	T-7	It shall be the intention of Council to work with owners of property, particularly along South Albion Street, to improve the existing street access and appearance of the area.
<i>Pedestrian Access</i>	T-8	It shall be the intention of Council to require connecting pedestrian pathways from cul-de-sacs and other residential streets where appropriate or order to increase the safety and convenience of pedestrians.
<i>Parking</i>	T-9	It shall be the intention of Council to regulate requirements for parking in order to ensure that adequate, safe and efficient parking facilities are provided for all land uses.
<i>Downtown Parking</i>	T-10	It shall be the intention of Council to work with local property owners in order to provide safe, efficient and adequate parking facilities in the downtown commercial area.
<i>Snow Clearing</i>	T-11	It shall be the intention of Council to develop and maintain snow clearing policies in order to maximize the effectiveness of our snow clearing efforts, particularly in regards to emergency vehicle access.
<i>Street Reserves</i>	T-12	It shall be the policy of Council to illustrate the approximate locations of future street reserves in undeveloped areas of Town (Map 4). These street reserves represent an approximate location of future collector and arterial streets. Where such reserves are shown, a concept plan of subdivision will not be required by the Subdivision Bylaw.

3.2.7 Recreation

Objectives

- (a) To promote a healthy lifestyle for all town residents;
- (b) To provide appropriate recreational and cultural facilities, which cater to a broad spectrum of interests and age groups;
- (c) To ensure that sufficient public open space is provided in all areas of town to meet the year round recreational needs of all town residents;
- (d) To establish a recreational trail system throughout the town;
- (e) To ensure that high density residential developments have sufficient open space to provide some recreational opportunities to residents of such developments.

RECREATION POLICIES

<i>Participation</i>	R-1	It shall be the intention of Council to ensure that a variety of recreation programs and facilities are available to meet the diverse needs of Town residents.
<i>Schools</i>	R-3	It shall be the intention of Council to enter into an agreement with the Chignecto Regional School Board to ensure community access to school facilities when required for the delivery of a recreation program and they are not in direct use for school program purposes.
<i>Community Groups</i>	R-4	It shall be the intention of Council to help facilitate the delivery of recreational and cultural programs and activities by community organizations where those organizations are determined to be the best mode of service delivery and a defined benefit to the community can be recognized.
<i>Community Events</i>	R-7	It shall be the intention of Council to continue to facilitate and support major sporting and community events held within the town.
<i>Community Aesthetics</i>	R-8	It shall be the intention of Council to promote residents and businesses to beautify their properties in order to improve the general aesthetic appearance of the town
<i>Urban Gardens</i>	R-9	It shall be the intention of Council to continue to plant and maintain floral displays on prominent town owned property.
<i>Urban Forest</i>	R-10	It shall be the intention of Council to continue to maintain significant trees on town owned land and promote the retention / planting of trees on private property.
<i>Facility Priority</i>	R-11	It shall be the intention of Council to direct resources to the upgrading of existing facilities, rather than the development of new facilities.

<i>New Facilities</i>	R-12 It shall be the intention of Council to conduct a needs assessment prior to the development of any new recreational facility. Such an assessment shall include, but not be limited to an analysis of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. demographics; b. potential market; c. revenue opportunities; d. service provision partnership opportunities; e. funding partnership opportunities; f. needs of target groups; and g. benefit to the overall community.
<i>Facility Maintenance</i>	R-13 It shall be the intention of Council to adopt a regular level of maintenance services for all town recreation facilities.
<i>Open Space Requirement</i>	R-16 It shall be the intention of Council to ensure that all newly developing residential areas of town be within reasonable access of public open space.
<i>Land Dedication at Subdivision</i>	R-17 It shall be the intention of Council to require a public land dedication to be paid at the time of a residential subdivision. This requirement will be levied against all newly created residential lots capable of accommodating a dwelling. The required public land dedication shall be 5% of the area of land shown on the final plan of subdivision, exclusive of public streets and walkways.
<i>Cash-in-lieu of Land</i>	R-18 It shall be the intention of Council to accept cash-in-lieu of land, where, in the opinion of Council, there is no land within the limits of the proposed subdivision desirable for public open space purposes or no additional recreation land is required in that neighbourhood.
<i>Land Outside Subdivision</i>	R-19 It shall be the intention of Council to accept land outside the area being subdivided, where, in the opinion of Council, there is no land within the limits of the proposed subdivision desirable for public open space purposes.
<i>Recreation Trail</i>	R-20 It shall be the intention of Council to acquire land for the development of a walking trail as illustrated on Map 5.
<i>High Density Open Space</i>	R-21 It shall be the intention of Council to require multiple unit residential properties to provide usable open space for use of residents on the site.

3.2.8 Environment

Objectives

- (i) To sustain or enhance the quality of the natural and manmade environment within the Town;
- (ii) To limit development within or on environmentally sensitive lands, particularly Dickey Brook;
- (iv) To promote a high degree of landscaping in all areas of town.

Policies

<i>Flood Plain Zone</i>	E-1 It shall be the intention of Council to include in the land use bylaw a Flood Plain zone. Such a zone shall be permitted in all land use designations and shall be applied to the flood plain of Dickey Brook. The flood plain zone will limit development to those uses which will not be negatively impacted by any potential flooding which may occur.
<i>Storm Water Management</i>	E-2 It shall be the intention of Council to include storm water management practices in the Subdivision Bylaw to ensure that new development does not increase the peak flows of the down stream portion of Dickey Brook.
<i>Dickey Brook Rehabilitation</i>	E-3 It shall be the intention of Council to work towards the environmental rehabilitation of Dickey Brook.
<i>Air Quality</i>	E-4 It shall be the intention of Council to discourage the development of industries which could have a potential to decrease the air quality of the area.
<i>Blair Lake</i>	E-5 It shall be the intention of Council to minimize sources of pollution within that portion of the Blair Lake Watershed which lies within the Town boundary, through appropriate development and infrastructure requirements.

<i>Tree Strategy</i>	E-6 It shall be the intention of Council to undertake an annual tree planting program to offset the impact of probable future losses of trees to disease. It shall further be the intention of Council to give priority to the following areas in the tree planting program: Church Street , East Victoria Street , West Victoria Street , Willow Street (portions with curbs) , Amherst and Area Industrial Park Town parks and green areas
<i>Landscaping</i>	E-7 It shall be the intention of Council to encourage a high degree of landscaping in all developments within the Town.

3.3 Future Sustainability Actions of the Municipal Planning Strategy

In addition to the polices listed in the previous section, there are a number of specific future actions which lead to sustainable outcomes, they are:

“IP-5 It shall be the intention of Council, in partnership with industry and other levels of government, to extend water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer, and to re-construct Race Track Road to industrial park standards.”

“IP-6 It shall be the intention of Council, in partnership with local land owners and other levels government, to secure a road access to the area of the Amherst and Area Industrial Park on the south side of the Trans-Canada Highway. It shall further be the intention of Council to provide municipal water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer to this area when the land is required for industrial development.”

These actions will result in further industrial development being concentrated within the urban core area of Amherst. This will reduce future urban sprawl and ensure employment opportunities are in close proximity to the local labor force.

MS-6 It shall be the intention of Council to work towards the development of a sewage treatment plant to be located on the Town owned property on the marsh.

Council has dedicated 100% of the money received from the first round of the Municipal Funding Agreement to the construction of this sewage treatment plant. This will result in 100% of Town sewage being treated to a ‘Secondary’ level. Construction is planned to commence in 2009.

MS-9 It shall be the intention of Council to continue to acquire land within the North Tyndal wellfield as ownership opportunities present themselves.

This action will result in increased land ownership within the Town’s water supply. Ownership offers the best level of protection possible for the water supply.

T-3 It shall be the intention of Council to work towards the construction of sidewalks on all arterial and collector streets where and when appropriate.

R-20 It shall be the intention of Council to acquire land for the development of a walking trail as illustrated on [MPS] Map 5.

These actions will result in a safer pedestrian environment, reduced reliance on automobile and improved health of residents through increased levels of physical fitness.

E-3 It shall be the intention of Council to work towards the environmental rehabilitation of Dickey Brook.

This action will improve water quality within and outside of the Town.

E-6 It shall be the intention of Council to undertake an annual tree planting program to offset the impact of probable future losses of trees to disease. It shall further be the intention of Council to give priority to the following areas in the tree planting program: Church Street , East Victoria Street , West Victoria Street , Willow Street (portions with curbs) , Amherst and Area Industrial Park Town parks and green areas

This action will result in an improved urban forest which will reduce heat within the urban core of the town, improve air quality, and add to the general aesthetic appeal and quality of life of the town and it’s residents.

4.0 Contributions to Sustainable Outcomes

4.1 Municipal Funding Agreement Project - Sewer Treatment Plant

Amherst Town Council has committed 100% of the money available from the first phase of the Municipal Funding Agreement to the construction of a new sewage treatment plant. This plant will treat 100% of the sewage generated within the Town. Construction of this plant is planned to commence in 2009.

This plant is to be constructed on the Amherst Marsh approximately two kilometers west of town. The outfall will be just downstream of an aboiteau on the LaPlanche River, about 3 kilometers from the Bay of Fundy.

This plant will have a primary treatment system provided by aerated lagoons and will utilize a man made ‘natural’ secondary treatment system via treatment wetlands to be designed and operated in consultation with Ducks Unlimited Canada.

This new facility will result in the removal of three million cubic metres per year of untreated wastewater from the receiving waters of the Bay of Fundy.

4.2 Policies and Provisions of the Municipal Planning Strategy.

There are many policies of the Municipal Planning Strategy that contribute to cleaner water, cleaner air and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. These policies have been listed in a previous section of this document. They will not be repeated here. Rather, a summary of the desired and expected outcomes of all of the relevant policies will be presented.

4.2.1 Cleaner Water

There are four main bodies of water which are within or in close proximity to the Town of Amherst; Dickey Brook, Blair Lake, LaPlanche River and the Bay of Fundy. The Town's MPS includes policies that speak to improve the quality of the water contained within each.

Regarding Dickey Brook, policies limit development within the floodplain, regulate storm water peak flows to the watercourse, and state that it shall be the intention of Council to work towards the environmental rehabilitation of Dickey Brook.

Regarding Blair Lake, policy states that it shall be the intention of Council to cooperate with the Municipality of the County of Cumberland and the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labor to identify and minimize sources of pollution within that portion of the Blair Lake Watershed which lies within the Town boundary.

Regarding the LaPlanche River, Council had a policy requiring the collection of all sewer outfalls into the River. This was completed by the construction of the North Town Collector.

Regarding the Bay of Fundy, the completion of the Town's new sewer treatment plant will result in the treatment, to a secondary level, of three million cubic metres of sewage into this body of water.

4.2.2 Cleaner Air

Various policies of the MPS will result in cleaner air within and around the Town by restrictions on the location of heavy polluting industries within the industrial park, and the establishment of a tree retention and planting program within the town.

4.2.3 Reduced Greenhouse Gases

The very nature of the Municipal Planning Strategy will result in a reduced amount of greenhouse gases being produced within the Town. All policies directly or indirectly lead to greenhouse gas emission reductions by requiring efficient development, infill development, allowing for higher density redevelopment, encouraging the retention of the existing housing stock, the provision of parks, sidewalks and walking trails, and allowing home occupations and neighborhood daycare centres. Policies aimed at employment and retail growth reduce the amount of trips out of the community for services which were once not available within the town.

The above result is a community where commuting times are lessened and vehicular trips are reduced and replaced by active transportation opportunities which directly reduces vehicular greenhouse gas emissions.

The retention of the existing housing and other building stock reduces the need for new raw materials and their transportation. It is much more efficient for renovate existing than building new buildings.

Increased employment and retail growth has led to a reduction in the number of day trips to other larger centres for services formally not offered in the area, leading to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

5.0 Statements of Provincial Interest

The Municipal Government Act includes the following five statements of Provincial Interest:

- Drinking Water
- Flood Risk Areas
- Agricultural Land
- Infrastructure
- Housing

As stated in the MGA, "These statements of Provincial interest recognize the importance of our land and water resources. The statements also address issues related to the future growth of our communities. They are intended to serve as guiding principles to help Provincial Government departments, municipalities and individuals in making decisions regarding land use. They are supportive of the principles of sustainable development on the following matters."

5.1 Municipal Planning Strategy Consistent with Provincial Interest

5.1.1 Flood Risk Areas

Goal: To protect public safety and property and to reduce the requirement for flood control works and flood damage restoration in floodplains.

Technically, this statement does not apply to the Town of Amherst as the Town does not contain a flood plain designated under the Canada – Nova Scotia Flood Damage Reduction Program. However, the MPS does include provisions to regulate development within the Dickey Brook floodplain as well as regulations concerning storm water runoff into the Brook.

5.1.2 Drinking Water

Goal: To protect the quality of drinking water within municipal water supply watersheds.

The MPS contains many policies aimed at protecting the quality of the Town's municipal drinking water supply. They include such things as inter-municipal cooperation, purchase of property, and adoption of a land use bylaw. Furthermore, the recharge area is designated as a protected water supply under the Provincial Environment Act.

5.1.3 Flood Risk Areas

Goal: To protect public safety and property and to reduce the requirement for flood control works and flood damage restoration in floodplains.

Technically, this statement does not apply to the Town of Amherst as the Town does not contain a flood plain designated under the Canada – Nova Scotia Flood Damage Reduction Program. However, the MPS does include provisions to regulate development within the Dickey Brook floodplain as well as regulations concerning storm water runoff into the Brook.

5.1.4 Agricultural Land

Goal: To protect agricultural land for the development of a viable and sustainable agriculture and food industry.

The MGA states, "Existing land-use patterns, economic conditions and the location and size of agricultural holdings means not all areas can be protected for food production, e.g., when agricultural land is located within an urban area".

Given the limited amount of land within the urban area of the town of Amherst and our existing development patterns, the MPS allows for urban development on the existing agricultural land within the town.

Taken in a regional context, allowing urban development on fully serviced agricultural land adjacent to existing residential, commercial and industrial development encourages efficient urban growth and preserves agricultural lands farther from the regional urban core where these uses are more appropriate and sustainable.

5.1.5 Infrastructure

Goal: To make efficient use of municipal water supply and municipal wastewater disposal systems.

The MPS contains several policies which promote and require efficient use of municipal infrastructure. These range from promoting infill development and prohibiting on site sewage disposal systems, to requiring that all new developments be property planned and integrated into the Town's water and sewer systems.

5.1.6 Housing

Goal: To provide housing opportunities to meet the needs of all Nova Scotians.

The MPS contains policies allowing and promoting many different housing types within the town. Policies promote infill development and allow for a range of housing types in all built up residential areas of the town.

4.6 Request for Financial Assistance: Fibre Arts Festival, RFD#2009086 M-0909-11

Councillor Bird declared a potential conflict and excused himself from the Council table during discussion and voting on this issue.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Angel, seconded by Councillor Rhindress that Council approve funding support I the amount of \$500 for the 2nd Annual Nova Scotia Fibre Arts Festival, under the town's Festivals and Events Policy.

MOTION CARRIED

4.7 R. H. Smith Trust Fund – Chairs for Library, RFD#2009089 M-0909-12

Moved by Councillor Rhindress, seconded by Councillor Fawthrop that Council approve a withdrawal from the R. H. Smith Trust Fund an amount not to exceed \$3,000 including the non-recoverable HST and shipping charges for chairs for the Four Fathers Memorial Library (31 new chairs plus 2 beanbag chairs).

MOTION CARRIED

4.8 Easement to Nova Scotia Power (David & Marcia Allen) RFD#2009090 M-0909-13

Moved by Moved by Councillor Bird, seconded by Councillor March that Council authorize the CAO to sign an easement agreement for Nova Scotia Power over Town-owned property on the east side of Willow Street along Dickey Brook for the purpose of installing a power line for a new apartment building being constructed by David and Marcia Allen, and further, as a condition of the granting of the easement, that the Allen's agree to construct a walking trail along the same property to Town standards.

MOTION CARRIED

4.9 November Council Meetings, RFD#2009091 M-0909-14

Moved by Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor Rhindress that the dates of the November Committee of the Whole and Council meetings be changed to the fourth and fifth Mondays, November 23 and November 30, respectively.

MOTION CARRIED

4.10 Collective Agreement: CUPE Local 1233 M-0909-15

The CAO advised Council that a tentative agreement had been reached with CUPE Local 1233 earlier this month. The agreement includes a new vacation provision for employees who have been with the Town for 24 years, allowing them six weeks vacation. As well, the agreement includes a general wage increase of 3.2% in year one, 3.2% in year two, and 3% in year three. The increase this year will cost the Town approximately \$45,000 and is allowed for in the operating budget. The agreement is effective April 1, 2009 and expires March 31, 2012. The management negotiating team of Ben Pitman, Vince Arbing, Roger MacIsaac, Kim Jones and the CAO recommend its approval by Council.

Moved by Councillor March, seconded by Councillor Baker that Council approve a Collective Agreement with CUPE Local 1233 effective April 1, 2009 and expiring March 31, 2012, as recommended by the Management Negotiating Team.

MOTION CARRIED

Council directed staff to send a letter to Terry Goulding congratulating him on his retirement.

**4.11 Lamp Posts and Lights for Dickey Park, RFD#2009092 M-0909-16
Moved by Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor Rhindress that Council accept the quote from Guillevin Ltd. in the amount of \$29,051 plus HST for the purchase of lamps and poles for the Dickey Park walking track.**

MOTION CARRIED

5. INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.1 Responsible Gaming Awareness Week

Councillor Fawthrop reported that the Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation has chosen Amherst as one of the six communities for the annual Responsible Gambling Awareness Week (RGAW) being held the week of October 4, 2009. The NSGC staff and volunteers from Atlantic Lottery Corporation and Casino will be at the Amherst Centre Mall with an Interactive Community Education Display on October 6 from 1 to 5 PM.

5.2 Victorian Christmas

Deputy Mayor Angel outlined the events planned for the 2009 Victorian Christmas Festival. Highlights include a Victorian Tea at First Baptist Church, the LED Christmas Light exchange, Light Up and Carol Sing Along on Friday, November 20. Saturday, November 21 will see the Olympic Torch Relay and the annual Christmas parade. The parade theme this year is Christmas around the World.

6. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

6.1 Dickey Park Redevelopment – Status Report

Councillor Baker provided the following status report on Dickey Park Redevelopment:

All activities are currently on schedule and being completed within the approved capital budget of \$123,600 for the current year. Work under this year's budget include construction of the walking track, purchase of and installation of track lighting, including trenching, wiring and bases, and construction of a building for washrooms, change rooms and utilities.

The walking track is now 98% complete with the exception of a small portion at the former Townshend Street entrance. This entrance will be filled in and grassed in the coming weeks, at which time the track will be fully completed.

Quotes have been received for lights and poles for the track, and Planning & Engineering Services are evaluating the quotes, looking at both capital costs and usage costs. Installation is planned for the coming weeks. We have sited the building for the washrooms, change rooms and utility room, and Town crews will be installing the water and sewer line to this site and constructing the concrete pad for the building shortly. Once this is done, Town staff will commence construction of this building, which we hope to have mostly completed prior to winter setting in.

There have been benches donated for the park over the past couple of months by the Amherst Memorial Bench group. The benches have been positioned in shaded areas along the track and add to the overall project very well.

It should be noted that since the track was built, many residents have taken advantage of it and have used it. We have placed temporary signage in the park showing that it takes 1.5 laps around the track to equal a kilometer, and 2.5 laps for a mile. I would encourage residents to take advantage of this wonderful track.

6.2 **Festival Sponsorship / Support – Status Report**

Deputy Mayor Angel presented the following status report on the Festival Sponsorship/ Support Strategic Priority:

All Actions relative to this Strategic Priority have been complete including completion of enabling policy and support mechanism and organization of a festival for the Town of Amherst.

The Four Fathers Festival took place from Wednesday, July 1 to Saturday July 4 and was deemed to be successful by all who were involved in organizing. A wrap up meeting took place just after the event on July 9 and attendees dissected the “good, bad and ugly” in terms of the success of this first annual event. All were in agreement that the community did come together and participated in the festival either as a volunteer or attendee. A number of activities will no doubt need to be withdrawn from future festivals as they were not well attended. However, there were many activities that were considered highly successful such as the Pancake breakfast and the Street Chalk Art contest.

The museum representatives indicated that the Royalty Dinner was excellent and was enjoyed by all. The historic walking tours had very good participation. Showcase productions provided excellent support with providing us with 2 of the Four Fathers to appear at many of the events. The players in Victorian dresses were extremely well received.

The Cross Border 10k challenge was a huge success. There were 181 runners including approximately 60 from Amherst who participated. Comments on the race were very positive from those who ran and plans are underway for next year’s event, planned for July 3 that will grow on this year’s success. The festival entertainment in the tent each night went extremely well. Musicians from Amherst and throughout the Maritimes provided exceptional entertainment and there were nothing but positive comments received by attendees.

This year was a leaning experience. Council, Staff and community volunteers had 10 weeks to “invent, organize and launch the first annual Four Fathers Festival. Our budget approved by council was \$20,900 and our actual costs were just over \$23,000 excluding fireworks. We have established a working committee for the festival who are will and excited to move forward in the planning of next year’s event. Now that we have the first year behind us, we have a structure to work with in terms of scheduling, marketing, promotion, etc and now have a full year to set up activities and entertainment. This work will commence shortly in an effort to start announcing key festival components as early as February.

Staff is currently working with the Amherst Encampment event which is scheduled for September 25 to 27 and with the Nova Scotia Fiber Arts Festival taking place from October 13 to 17. In addition, meetings and planning will be underway later this month in preparation for the Victorian Christmas initiative and Christmas Parade. Staff is working with Olympic Touch Relay officials towards the planning for activities during when the Torch passes through Amherst on November 21.

6.3 **Arts Culture & Heritage – Project Status Report**

Councillor Fawthrop presented the following status report on the Arts Culture and Heritage strategic priority:

DmA Consulting, located on Wolfville, were awarded the contract to carry out the Arts Culture and Heritage Strategy.

During the week of July 14 staff met the consultants at their Wolfville offices to organize the project and confirm objectives. Since that time staff have sent the consultants relevant material and studies to help set the context of the project.

During the week of August 17 a meeting was held with the steering committee and the consultants at Town Hall. This meeting included hearing the concerns and ideas of the steering Committee and confirming the key objectives of the project. After the meeting the consultants were given a tour of all of the town’s key performance / cultural buildings including; the high school, Spring Street Academy, First Baptist Church, Trinity – St. Steven Church, the Dominion Public Building, the old Clock Tower, Amherst Stadium, Rotary Park, Dickey Park and Victoria Square. The consultants were since sent a list of key stakeholders to interview. These interviews are currently being undertaken.

A public open house will be scheduled for late September / early October as will be an on-line survey. The original time for the project had a draft plan due in August with a final plan submitted in October.

Due to delays in awarding the contract, vacations and other priorities the completion date for the project has been set back to January 2010.

6.4 **Skateboard Park Feasibility – Project Status Report**

Councillor Bird presented the following project status report on the Skateboard Park Feasibility strategic priority.

In May, a request for proposals was advertised for the completion of the Skateboard Park Feasibility Study. We received 2 proposals from interested consultants. Landinc with offices in Ontario and Nova Scotia was awarded the contract for the study and work commenced in early July.

A Skateboard Park survey was placed on our website up to June 30th and residents were encouraged to complete the survey. We received 86 surveys back and attached to this report are some of the results. This information has been provided to Landinc to assist them with their study. On July 30, the Town of Amherst and Landinc hosted a public meeting at the Tantramar Theatre to solicit public input with respect to community needs assessment, evaluation of site location alternatives and other planning and design considerations. The inputs provided at this meeting were excellent and provided the consultants a good base for their ongoing work. Landinc also launched their on line survey for the study and residents were encouraged to complete the survey prior to August 21. Survey results will be provided within the final report.

On September 10, Landinc will host an interactive design workshop at the Tantramar Theatre. This workshop will help garner information relative to the design wishes of community members for a skateboard park in Amherst. While some of the details related to completion of the Study we delayed, we continue to be within the timeframes approved within our Project Action Plan. A draft feasibility study will be presented to council in September for consideration.

Summary of Survey Results

86 Respondents

50% over 17

50% 17 and under

Of Resident Respondents (73 of the 86)

100% feel that a skatepark would be an asset

53% skaters, 47% non skaters

78% feel recreational needs are not currently being met

Of Skater Residents Respondents

33% also BMX

23% also Inline sk8

62% Skateboard daily but 79% feel their recreational needs are not being met

77% want a concrete skatepark

56% feel it should be in Dickey Park

92% are excited enough to participate in a public meeting to have their voices heard.

6.4 Downtown Revitalization – Project Status Report

Councillor March presented the following project status report on the Downtown Action Strategy:

Ekistics Planning and Design, located on Dartmouth, were awarded the contract to carry out the Centre First – Downtown Amherst Action Strategy. During July and August staff worked with Ekistics to organize the project and send them reports and relevant information about the Town.

During the first week of September the consultants conducted Key Stakeholder Interviews to gain further information on the Downtown, and hear merchants and property owner's ideas and concerns. An online survey will be conducted shortly. On September 3 a meeting was held with the steering committee and the consultants at Town Hall. This meeting included hearing the concerns and ideas of the steering Committee and confirming key objectives. The lengthy walking tour of the Downtown was also conducted. Key areas, opportunities, problems and public spaces were pointed out to the consultant. A general tour of the entire Town was also conducted to provide context to the Downtown. A public open house will be scheduled for late September / early October.

Originally the revitalization plan was scheduled to be completed in November of 2009. Due to the timing of warding the contract, vacations and other priorities the completion date for the project has been set back to January 2010.

6.6 Youth Initiatives

Mayor Small presented the following project status report on the Youth Initiatives strategic priority:

With the terms of reference now in place for the Youth Advisory Council, we are on schedule to accept expressions of interest for participation on the Council on September 18. The request for expressions of interest and application is currently posted on the Town's web site and has been advertised in the local paper encouraging youth to apply. Letters have been sent by the Mayor to the school principals encouraging support from the schools. Once the expressions of interest are reviewed, a recommendation will be brought forward to council during September regular council session and committee members will be appointed. Once appointments to the Youth Advisory Committee are made, an initial meeting will be held in early October which will allow committee members to discuss priorities for the committee and process in addition to any current issues that require attention (i.e. Skateboard Park Feasibility Study).

6.7 Town Beautification

Councillor Rhindress presented the following project status report on the Town Beautification strategic priority:

A list of projects to be included in the Town Beautification Strategy was presented to Council earlier this summer. While the final beautification strategy is not yet complete, much work has been undertaken.

Ekistics Planning and Design (our Downtown Consultants) have provided a planting design for the two curb islands at South Albion and Robert Angus Drive, as well as the two curb islands at South Albion and Lord Amherst Drive. Town crews will install plants in these islands in the near future. Ekistics are also working on a design for substantial flower beds to be installed around all four Town of Amherst entrance signs.

During the summer staff took pictures and gained ideas while in Charlottetown, Sydney, Windsor, Wolfville, Kentville and Halifax.

The Mayor and staff met with representatives from Irving who intend to donate a parcel of land to the Town at the LaPlanche Street entrance. This property has the potential to host a significant welcome sign / garden area.

The procedure for Dangerous and Unsightly Premises has been revamped this year – it seems to be working well.

Doug Shatford is in the process of making amendments to our Vacant Buildings Bylaw.

Doug Shatford has sent a letter to PBS Solid Waste Management informing them that they are to pick up Victoria Street before noon. Failure to do this could result in the Town revoking the existing solid waste contract.

Town Beautification implementation was to commence in May of 2009. While some policy / procedural changes have taken effect the bulk of the projects have not yet been started. The final Town Beautification Strategy will be presented to Council this fall.

7. INTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**7.1 Planning Advisory Committee – Nil Report****7.2 Amherst Board of Police Commissioners**

Councillor Fawthrop reported on the results of the Police Public Consultation Process which was conducted over the summer. He read a memo from the Chair of the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners, which said:

“The Board of Police Commissioners in keeping with its mandate to provide a level of police service that meets the needs and expectations of the community held two public meetings to solicit public comments and suggestions. Mr. Jack Novack of Dalhousie University facilitated the session and filed his report with the Board at its September meeting. He indicated he was impressed with the level of participation and tenor of the suggestions and recommended the Board continue public involvement in this important public service. Those recommendations of an operational nature will be considered and where appropriate actioned without delay. We will consider all the suggestions in conjunction with out intent to have a strategic plan in place by the end of this year.”

7.3 Dangerous or Unsightly Premises Committee

Councillor Bird presented the following report on behalf of the Dangerous and Unsightly Premises Committee:

The Dangerous and Unsightly Premises Committee met monthly during the summer. To date this year we have had 36 complaints; 26 of which have been brought into compliance. One complaint has been carried over from last year. We are happy to report that most property owners are working with the Committee to bring their properties into compliance.

At a special meeting in late August the Committee referred the issue of regulating wood piles to the Planning Advisory Committee for a recommendation. At the Committee's regular August meeting the Committee referred the issue to uniform exterior cladding and color to Town Council for guidance.

7.4 Tyndal Wellfield Advisory Committee - Nil Report**7.5 Tree Committee - Nil Report****7.6 Heritage Advisory Committee - Nil Report****7.7 Audit Committee - Nil Report****7.8 Committee of the Whole - Nil Report**

8. EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1 Cumberland Regional Library Board

Deputy Mayor Angel presented a verbal report on behalf of the Library Board.

8.2 CREDA – Nil Report

8.3 DARS - Nil Report

8.4 CJSMA

The CAO presented a verbal report on activities of the CJSMA. The financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2009 are complete, and show a deficit of \$37,971; this amount will be absorbed by prior years' surplus. The deficit was driven mainly by lower recycling sales and lower diversion credits. He read a brief report on the Nova Scotia Department of Environment's draft diversion target of 300 kg per person by 2015, and an update memo from Stephen Rayworth on the leachate facility.

8.5 Northern Region Waste Resource Committee

Councillor Baker presented the following report on behalf of the Northern Region Waste Resource Committee:

We recently received statistical updates on solid waste diversion efforts and costs throughout Nova Scotia. These numbers let us know how we compare to other municipal units in the province.

Amherst fairs very well in the update. Specifically:

- Amherst collects slightly more kilograms of Organic material at curbside from residential units than the Nova Scotia average.
- Amherst collects slightly more kilograms of recycling material at curbside from residential units than the Nova Scotia average.
- Amherst collects slight less kilograms of residual waste material at curbside from residential units than the Nova Scotia average.
- The cost of total curbside collection per residential unit in Amherst is less than half the Nova Scotia average (this does not include tipping fees).

What these numbers show is that Amherst is doing a good job of diverting solid waste from our landfill when compared to the average Nova Scotian community. Further, we have the lowest cost of curbside collection per residential unit than any other Nova Scotian community.

He also read a letter from the Regional Coordinator regarding the 2008-2009 Diversion Credit Cheques. RRFB Nova Scotia forwarded a 75% advance on diversion credit funds that was based on diversion earned in the previous year (2007-2008). Northern Region received a cheque in the amount of \$299,500. Cumberland's share of that is 14.7% or \$44,026.50.

8.6 Cooperation Committee - Nil Report

8.7 Airport Committee - Nil Report

8.8 Amherst and Area Chamber of Commerce

Deputy Mayor Angel reported that the Amherst and Area Chamber of Commerce Excellence Awards Gala Dinner is coming up and call for nominations ends Friday.

9. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Small commented that it has been a very busy and successful summer, and that we had made great strides towards our strategic goals and initiatives. Noteworthy are the First Four Fathers Festival, hosting the live TSN program, development of the walking track at Dickey Park, progress of the Skate Park Feasibility, and the Military Encampment re-enactment. He congratulated the Little League Maltby tournament organizers, First Baptist Church on their 200th anniversary and conference, and the Catholic Church on the progress of their new building. Lastly, he asked the CAO to send a letter to Mayor Doug Robinson with sincere best wishes on his retirement.

10. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Councillor Rhindress the meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

APPROVED BY:

Gregory D. Herrett, CA
Town Clerk and Chief Administrative Officer

Robert Small
Mayor

Amherst Town Council Meeting
Monday, September 28, 2009 at 7:00 PM

AGENDA

1.	O'CANADA				
2.	HEARINGS/PRESENTATIONS				
2.1	Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation				
2.2	Appeal Hearing – 197 Willow Street Variance				
3.	CALL TO ORDER			Presenter	Page
3.1	Additions to Agenda				
3.2	Approval of Agenda			Baker	
3.3	Approval of Minutes:			Rhindress	
	.1 June 22, 2009 Regular Meeting				5
	.2 July 8, 2009 Special Meeting				22
	.3 July 20, 2009 Special Meeting				28
	.4 August 27, 2009 Special Meeting				34
4.	REQUESTS FOR DECISION		RFD	Presenter	Page
4A	Variance Appeal – 197 Willow Street			March	
4B	Audited Financial Statements			Angel	41
4.1	Policy: Salary Administration – Amendment		2009081	March	82
4.2	Policy: Purchasing – Amendment		2009082	March	85
4.3	By-Law: Tax Exempt – Amendment – First Reading		2009083	Baker	95
4.4	Tender: Library Roof		2009084	Angel	98
4.5	Integrated Community Sustainability Plan		2009085	Fawthrop	100
4.6	Request for Financial Assistance: Fibre Arts Festival		2009086	Angel	142
4.7	R. H. Smith Trust Fund – Chairs for Four Fathers Library		2009089	Rhindress	147
4.8	Easement to Nova Scotia Power (off Willow Street)		2009090	Bird	149
4.9	November Meetings of Council		2009091	Baker	152
4.10	Collective Agreement: CUPE Local 1233 (to be distributed Monday)			March	153
4.11	Lamps and Posts for Dickey Park Walking Trail			Baker	182
5.	INFORMATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS				
5.1	Responsible Gaming Awareness Week				187
5.2	Victorian Christmas				189
6.	STRATEGIC PRIORITIES				
6.1	Dickey Park Redevelopment - Project Status Report			Baker	191
6.2	Festival Sponsorship / Support – Project Status Report			Angel	192
6.3	Arts Culture & Heritage – Project Status Report			Fawthrop	194
6.4	Skateboard Park Feasibility - Project Status Report			Bird	195
6.5	Downtown Revitalization – Project Status Report			March	197
6.6	Youth Issues - Project Status Report			Small	198
6.7	Town Beautification – Project Status			Rhindress	199
7.	INTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS¹²³				
7.1	Planning Advisory Committee			No Report	--
7.2	Amherst Board of Police Commissioners			Fawthrop	200
7.3	Dangerous or Unightly Premises Committee			Bird	204
7.4	Tyndal Wellfield Advisory Committee			No report	--
7.5	Tree Committee			No report	--
7.6	Heritage Advisory Committee			No report	--
7.7	Audit Committee			No report	--
7.8	Committee of the Whole			No report	--
8.	EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS				
8.1	Cumberland Regional Library Board (verbal report)			Angel	--
8.2	CREDA			No report	--
8.3	DARS			No report	--
8.4	CJSMA (verbal report)			Herrett	
8.5	Northern Region Solid Waste			Baker	205
8.6	Cooperation Committee			No report	
8.7	Airport Committee			No report	--
8.8	Amherst and Area Chamber of Commerce (verbal report)			Angel	
9.	MAYOR'S COMMENTS				
10.	ADJOURNMENT				