



Town of Amherst
Special Council Meeting
Agenda

Date: **Tuesday, September 6, 2022**
Time: **12:00 pm**
Location: **Council Chambers, Town Hall**

Pages

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **REQUEST FOR DECISION**

2.1. **Amherst Little League Baseball Association Agreement**

1 - 6

3. **ADJOURNMENT**

SYNOPSIS

Amherst Little League Baseball Association Agreement

Amherst Little League presented to Council earlier this year requesting permission to utilize a portion of Beacon Street Park for a third (t-ball) field.

Amherst Little League has received a \$70,000 grant from the Jays Care Foundation, \$25,000 from the Province of Nova Scotia, \$10,000 from the Town of Amherst (plus \$10,000 worth of in-kind services) as well as funding from other sources for the field construction.

The Town will contribute \$10,000 in cash for the new field, to be funded as a community support grant (previously approved). The Town will also contribute \$7,000 toward the re-alignment of the Dickey Brook footbridge as well as contribute \$3,000 worth of in-kind work on the base for the new outfield fence.

Within the proposed new lease agreement, the Town will continue to mow the grass outside the baseball field playing areas and coordinate and pay for solid waste removal at the site.

The addition of the third field will allow for consolidation of more Little League activities at this core site, thus making participation more practical for families with multiple children. The construction of the new t-ball field will allow this program to reach a broader audience.

MOTION:

That Council approve the agreement between the Town of Amherst and Amherst Little League Baseball Association, and authorize the Mayor and CAO to sign on behalf of the Town.



AMHERST TOWN COUNCIL

RFD# 2022052

Date: September 6, 2022

TO: Mayor Kogon and Members of Council

SUBMITTED BY: Jason MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: September 6, 2022

SUBJECT: Amherst Little League Baseball Association Agreement

ORIGIN: Request from Amherst Little League Baseball Association

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY: Municipal Government Act (MGA), Section 61(1) A municipality or a village may agree with any person for the provision of a service or a capital facility the municipality or village is authorized to provide.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council approve the agreement between the Town of Amherst and Amherst Little League Baseball Association, and authorize the Mayor and CAO to sign on behalf of the Town.

BACKGROUND: Amherst Little League (LL) presented to Council earlier this year requesting permission to utilize a portion of Beacon Street Park for a third (t-ball) field.

DISCUSSION: Amherst Little League has received a \$70,000 grant from the Jays Care Foundation, \$25,000 from the Province of Nova Scotia, \$10,000 from the Town of Amherst (plus \$10,000 worth of in-kind services) as well as funding from other sources for the field construction.

In order to facilitate the T-Ball field request a number of items would have to take place:

- The existing lease will have to be modified in order to show the expanded leased land.
- Use of the Fire Station parking lot will be encouraged for LL events (Chief Jones has confirmed that this is feasible).
- The existing pedestrian bridge over Dickey Brook will have to be moved and a corresponding re-alignment of the walking trail will be needed. This work will cost no more than \$7,000 and will be undertaken by the Town of Amherst.

While the addition of the T-Ball field to the site will further intensify the use on the property, expanding toward the Fire Station will make use of that parking lot more practical for spectators (signage will also be installed). Some work on the trail bridge on the Fire Station side of the brook is required at present, so the trail re-alignment is not a big issue. Encouraging parking at the Fire Station will also help alleviate parking concerns in the area.





AMHERST TOWN COUNCIL

RFD# 2022052

Date: September 6, 2022

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: The Town will contribute \$10,000 in cash for the new field, to be funded as a community support grant (previously approved). The Town will also contribute \$7,000 toward the re-alignment of the Dickey Brook footbridge as well as contribute \$3,000 worth of in-kind work on the base for the new outfield fence.

Within the proposed new lease agreement, the Town will continue to mow the grass outside the baseball field playing areas and coordinate and pay for solid waste removal at the site.

SOCIAL JUSTICE IMPLICATIONS: The addition of the third field will allow for consolidation of more Little League activities at this core site, thus making participation more practical for families with multiple children. The construction of the new t-ball field will allow this program to reach a broader audience.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS: There are no environmental implications to the addition of the new field.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: There has been much engagement of the community by Amherst Little League for this project, including the raising of significant funds from the local community.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Refer the agreement back to staff for further negotiations with Amherst Little League.
2. Do not approve the agreement

ATTACHMENTS:

Report prepared by: Jason MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer
Report and Financial approved by:



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Kogon and Council
From: Jason MacDonald, CAO
Date: April 18, 2022
Subject: **Little League T-Ball Field**

BACKGROUND

Amherst Little League (LL) presented to Council earlier this year requesting permission to utilize a portion of Beacon Street Park for a third (t-ball) field. Council denied their request and offered to assist them in finding an alternative location for their third field (twice).

DISCUSSION

I met with the executive on April 12. After much discussion they are requesting that the T-Ball field be located next to the Sonny Foster field (open space between existing fields and fire station). LL has received a \$70,000 grant from the Jays Care Foundation and between \$20-25,000 from the Province of Nova Scotia for the field construction.

LL will have the house on the corner of Beacon and Croft removed and the land backfilled. They will be applying to re-zone this property to Open Space in order to allow for the construction of fully enclosed batting cages. This issue will be dealt with and ultimately decided by Council through the planning process.

In order to facilitate the T-Ball field request a number of items would have to take place:

- The existing lease will have to be modified in order to show the expanded leased land.
- Use of the Fire Station parking lot will be encouraged for LL events (Chief Jones is ok with this).
- The existing pedestrian bridge over Dickey Brook will have to be moved to the west and a corresponding re-alignment of the walking trail will be needed. This work will cost no more than \$5,000.

While the addition of the T-Ball field to the site will further intensify the use on the property, expanding toward the Fire Station will make use of that parking lot more practical for spectators (signage can also be installed). Significant work on the trail on the Fire Station side of the brook is required at present, so the trail re-alignment is not a big issue.

LL has until the end of April to accept the Jays Care Foundation grant. Should Council be willing to entertain the construction of the field in this location, direction to the CAO to negotiate the required amendments to the lease agreement would be appropriate.

It is understandable that LL desires to have all of their facilities in on location. This option is a compromise from their original request and is a much safer solution. Encouraging parking at the Fire Station will also help alleviate parking concerns in the area and I am recommending that the CAO be directed to negotiate a renewed lease for Council's consideration.

