

Item No. 16.1

Request for Harbour East Marine Drive Community Council's Consideration			
Included on Agenda (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office)	X	Added Item (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Monday)	Request from the Floor
Date of Community Council Meeting: May 3, 2018			
Subject: Purchase of Equipment to upgrade the Musquodoboit Harbour Ballfields			
Motion for the Harbour East Marine Drive Community Council to Consider:			
That Harbour East Marine Drive Community Council approve funding in the amount of \$7,000.00 from the Musquodoboit Harbour Common Area Rate account for the purchase of recreational and field equipment required to upgrade the Musquodoboit Harbour ballfields for Baseball / Hardball use.			
Reason:			
The equipment will be utilized to make the ballfield available for baseball and hardball use. The fields are currently set up for softball only.			
Sections 29 (2), 29(3) and 29(6) of the Charter state:			
(2) A community council may determine expenditures, to be financed by area rate, that should be made in, or for the benefit of, the community.			
(3) Except in the first year that it is established, a community council shall submit to the Council its proposed operating budget for services to be provided to the community to be financed by area rate and its proposed capital budget for projects for which the Municipality will be required to borrow money and will charge back all or part of the debt charges to the community.			
(6) A community council may determine upon what money contained <u>in the budget approved by the Council is spent, if the sum of all expenditures does not exceed the sum so approved.</u>			

Staff has confirmed that there are sufficient funds budgeted and available in C160 - Musquodoboit Harbour Common Rate to cover this request [Section 29(6)].

Outcome Sought:

That Harbour East Marine Drive Community Council approve the requested funding so residents can play softball, hardball and baseball on the fields.

Councillor David Hendsbee

District 2



Dear Mr. Hendsbee,

My name is Lorri Arnold and I am the president of the Porter's Lake Baseball Association. We are part of the Dartmouth Minor Baseball League as well as the Baseball Nova Scotia Blue Nose League.

Over the past four years, the Porter's Lake Minor Baseball league has grown tremendously from 16 to nearly 190 participants.

We are in dire need of an official hardball field. We have been playing on softball size fields for the past 4 years making the best of the situation and opposing teams allowing us to "adapt the rules" to fit our fields. Unfortunately, we aren't able to make these arrangements work any longer. You see, the team that started our association has reached a level where exceptions such as field size and pitching mounds are a safety concern and exceptions can't be made.

I reached out to Anne Wambolt, the coordinator of sports and community events in search of a field with the basic requirements for play at our Midget level. I was saddened to learn that there were no fields with the required dimensions on the Eastern Shore.

In order for our teams to continue to play the sport they love they can no longer represent our community within it. Their home field is now in the city at Conrad's fields (where all 4 ball diamonds at the required size are located). We now must send some of our players 110km to the closest ball diamond to use as their home field.

We were lucky we were able to contract out this field one day a week this season as our home field. I'm not sure what we are going to do in the coming years as the majority of our participants move up in their divisions. Our association is at a stand still with children on wait lists at most levels, and we are not able to offer them a place to play in their own communities.

Outdoor recreation and organized sports are important parts of living a healthy lifestyle. We are hopeful the government will support infrastructure that gets youth outdoors and physically active in their communities. New fields would allow us to accommodate more youth, directly impact the lives of Canada's youth, by giving them a place to play a sport they love, meet new friends, and make memories, setting them on a path of healthy living.

With an investment in our youth and community, the Porter's Lake Minor Baseball Association will be able to offer a safe environment for our kids to play baseball. The field will allow not only benefit our association but other associations in the community. We

would be able to host provincial tournaments and it will allow us to host many large events and clinics in the future.

I know our association is not alone in the demand for fields in the area as well. To my understanding the Men's and Woman's leagues have also grown and are in need of fields. I would welcome the opportunity for us all to work together to build fields we could all use. If the field were to have the required dimensions for a midget hardball field we would be more than happy to use a removable mound allowing the field to be used by both hard and softball players. If your able to include lights on these fields it will also DOUBLE its usage as many of the softball fields we do play on now don't have lighting which means you can only get 1 game in per night vs two. (Youth teams could play early allowing for the adult leagues to play their games under the lights). It would be a win for everyone.

We require the following size field in order to move forward with our Bantam and Midget levels: The typical size in minimum 350 feet between home plate and the center field fence, 127ft 3 3/8 home plate to 2nd base, 90 feet between the base's and 50 ft from back stop to home plate.

Each year we have had to increase our fields and coaching staff to include both Recreational & Competitive play in every level. Unfortunately, our numbers are now that of many of the city leagues if not bigger and we don't have a single hardball field on the Eastern Shore to play on.

I am hopeful there is something we can do to accommodate these children. The majority of our growth has been at the younger levels and they will face the same field requirements in the next year or so. At the moment our only option is to send them to the city where they have 4 hardball fields.

Look forward to working with you to make this vision become a reality for our community and ever-growing baseball associations.

Lorri Arnold

Porter's Lake President



FIELD COST FOR RINK & BENNETTS FIELD'S MUSQUODOBOIT HARBOUR

- Baseballs for Ball School, Pre-Rookie, Peewee & Bantam (Teams playing out of Musq Hbr) - \$1522.95 plus shipping
 - Removable Mound \$1300 (One each field)
 - 1 Set of catcher's Gear \$227.40
 - Helmets \$105
 - Bases \$75
 - Tee \$34.49
 - Fielding Net Bennett's Pit \$555.40
 - Storage Container for Bennett's Pit \$3250.00
 - Total \$7,070.24