



**African Nova Scotian Community  
Strategy Committee**  
Meeting Minutes  
January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025

A meeting of the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee of the Town of Truro was held on Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 12:00pm at the Douglas Street Recreation Centre.

**Present:** Councillor W. Talbot, Councillor I. McGrath, A. Paris, N. Jackson and N. Gray.

**In attendance:** CAO M. Dolter, N. Gillis, and M. Burgess

**Regrets:** A. Grant, B. Borden, J. Collins and M. Yiridoe

**Land Acknowledgement / Peoples Acknowledgement**

I. McGrath opened the meeting with a Land Acknowledgement as well as a Peoples Acknowledgement.

**Approval of the Agenda**

On motion of N. Jackson and A. Paris the agenda was approved as circulated.

**Approval of the Minutes**

The Committee reviewed the circulated minutes from the January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting.

**African Heritage Month 2025**

*African Heritage Month Kickoff*

The Committee reviewed the circulated proposed program for the African Heritage Month Kickoff event. Some revisions were made in terms of the order of the program as well as the addition of a Youth Participant as well as an Elder Participant.

*George Jones Commemoration*

N. Jackson explained that he would be making a presentation to Council at the February 3<sup>rd</sup> Public Council meeting regarding the renaming of the Truro Fire Station.

N. Jackson stated that Reverend Lennett Anderson would be speaking for the first portion of the Annual Seniors Luncheon. N. Jackson explained that the second portion of the luncheon would include the Commemoration of George Jones and his lead role in the creation of the Truro Fire Brigade. N. Jackson stated that this portion would include the

unveiling of the challenge coins, unveiling of the educational banners as well as the hopeful unveiling of the new name signage mockup (if approved by Council).

N. Jackson explained that multiple African Nova Scotian Firefighters were invited to attend this event. N. Jackson explained that Greg Jones, Amherst Fire Chief, would be speaking at the luncheon.

N. Jackson stated that a sperate event would take place in May to unveil the new signage and name on the building.

*Poets Breaking Into Song – Marigold Cultural Centre Event*

The Committee discussed the proposal from the Marigold Cultural Centre.

N. Gray questioned whether tickets would be available / held for community members as the cost to attend the event is quite high.

The Committee agreed that if tickets were available to the community, they would support the event.

I. McGrath agreed to reach out to M. Feit the Executive Director at the Marigold Cultural Centre to discuss the proposal and the Committee's commitment.

**Budget Increase Request**

W. Talbot explained that there was some very progressive work being undertaken in the African Nova Scotian community to address economic development, food security, seniors' health, and several other issues. He noted that they are having extremely encouraging conversations with all levels of government & the Canadian senate. W. Talbot stated that at a weekly breakfast meeting it was decided that they would also ask the town for an additional level of support. He noted that the group was requesting that the chair of the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee write a letter requesting that an additional \$10,000 be added to the Committee's budget to assist in these efforts.

W. Talbot stated that an organization was created to assist with the creation of dedicated community space.

M. Dolter explained that the Town would need to be able to justify the increase in budget, including an itemized budget.

The Committee questioned whether the Community Enhancement Association was still sitting on the Tropicana Grant Funding.

It was questioned whether the new organization would be a member of the joint stocks registry so they could apply for funding opportunities.

It was discussed that the budget increase could be for the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy's Committees budget to aid the projects previously discussed as they have been involved in implementing many of the projects and activities.

On motion of W. Talbot and N. Jackson it was agreed by the Committee that due to the work being done and the upcoming projects being taken on by the Committee that a letter be written to Council requesting a \$5,000 increase in the Committees budget. Motion carried.

N. Gray agreed to write the letter to Council on behalf of the Committee as co-chair requesting the budget increase.

### **Zion Baptist Cemetery Project**

N. Jackson explained that Francis Collins a trustee of the Zion Baptist Church was concerned about the record keeping for the Zion Baptist Church portion of the Truro Cemetery. N. Jackson also explained that he was not sure of the current agreement in place between the Zion Baptist Church and the Truro Cemetery.

N. Jackson stated that plot locations and list records would need to be cross referenced. N. Jackson explained that ground penetrating radar may be needed due to the number of unmarked graves.

It was questioned whether the Zion Baptist Church portion of the cemetery could be registered as a heritage property to protect it.

N. Jackson explained that the church didn't own the property, but they had use of that specific section, same with all the plots in the cemetery.

### **Questions or Items from Members**

*Terms of Reference Committee Membership / Attendance*

The Committee agreed to discuss the Committee's terms of reference in regards to committee membership as well as attendance requirements at the next Committee meeting.

### **Next Meeting Date**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee would take place on March 7<sup>th</sup> from 12:00pm – 1:30pm.

### **Adjournment**

On motion of N. Gray, the meeting was adjourned.