

A meeting of the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee of the Town of Truro was held on Thursday, June 19th, 2025, at 12:00pm at the Douglas Street Recreation Centre.

Present: Councillor I. McGrath, A. Paris, B. Borden, T. Drummond, N. Jackson, N. Gray, and Councillor W. Talbot

In attendance: CAO M. Dolter, A. Grant N. Gillis, D. MacNeil, and M. Burgess

Regrets: J. Collins and M. Yiridoe

Approval of the Agenda

N. Gray requested that Terms of Reference Review be tabled to the next meeting's agenda. N. Gray asked that it be replaced with Co-Chair discussion.

On motion of N. Gray and B. Borden the agenda was approved as amended.

Approval of the Minutes

The Committee reviewed the circulated minutes from the April 4th, 2025, meeting.

Diversity Recruitment – Chief MacNeil

Chief MacNeil explained that they had secured a space in the Class of July 2026 for a diverse community member. The selected individual would need to be screened through the Atlantic Police Academy process.

D. MacNeil agreed to share the Atlantic Police Academy criteria with N. Gillis.

D. MacNeil requested that the Committee help spread the word on this opportunity.

D. MacNeil explained that he would also be reaching out directly to Millbrook First Nation as well.

B. Borden suggested reaching out to the local school systems as well, both high school and university.

D. MacNeil stated that the age range wasn't just limited to youth.

M. Dolter explained that a similar process could potentially happen for Truro Fire Service Recruitment.

Co-Chair Position

N. Gray explained that as of the fall she would no longer be able to be a member of the Committee due to other responsibilities.

N. Gray nominated A. Paris to fill the role of Co-Chair of the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee following her resignation. N. Jackson seconded the nomination.

A. Paris accepted the nomination of Co-Chair of the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee following N. Gray's departure.

Community Garden / Greenhouse

N. Gray explained that it was going to cost \$15,000 for the rights to the greenhouse that will be erected through the funding received as the Planning and Development Department requires stamped plans.

It was agreed that M. Dolter would review the issue with the Town's Building Inspector.

N. Gray explained that Halifax Regional Municipality has already completed similar projects to this. N. Gray agreed to send M. Dolter information on similar projects.

B. Borden stated that he was looking into cement pad options.

It was explained that the engineered plans need to be stamped by a Nova Scotia Engineer as it is currently stamped by an Ontario Engineer.

N. Gray explained that the Community Garden Boxes had been cleaned out. Seeds for the garden boxes were donated by the Bible Hill Garden Club.

Correspondence from African Nova Scotian Justice Institute

B. Borden questioned if in the future the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee could be vaguely notified that something is taking place / occurring that affects the African Nova Scotian Community.

M. Dolter explained that depending on the situation he would investigate what can and cannot be shared.

N. Gray explained that even sharing the information with the Co-Chairs of the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee would be beneficial.

M. Dolter stated that going forward the Town will share what they can with the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee.

M. Dolter explained that it being a Police issue made it even more difficult on what the Town could and could not share.

Renaming of Ford Street / Robie Street Park

M. Dolter explained that the Reparations Park signage was temporary for the event as no one came to Council requesting that the park name be Reparations Park.

It was questioned whether the name recommendation for the park should come from Community input.

A. Paris agreed to meet with CEA representatives prior to the Sub-Committee meeting to find the origins of the name Reparations Park.

It was agreed that A. Paris, N. Jackson and T. Drummond would create a sub-committee to start the discussion on how to address the naming of the park and how to appropriately seek Community input.

M. Dolter agreed to respond to the Women's History Society explaining that the Town would be looking for full community input regarding the name of the park.

Updates

ANSA Update

A. Paris stated that he was taking on a new role as a Sport and Recreation Lead with the Nova Scotia Government. A. Paris explained that his vacant position with ANSA would be posted in the near future.

Budget Update

M. Dolter stated there was not a budget update available at this time.

No. 2 Construction Battalion Update

M. Dolter explained that a new name had been chosen for the newly renovated facility. The new chosen name of the facility was the No. 2 Construction Battalion Athletic Facility.

M. Dolter stated that an unveiling event of the monument at the No. 2 Construction Battalion Athletic Facility would be taking place in early November.

M. Dolter explained that the Town was invited to speak at the annual No. 2 Construction Battalion 2025 Commemoration event taking place on July 5, 2025, in Pictou. M. Dolter stated that the Town was hoping to announce the monument unveiling date at the event.

A. Grant explained that the Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia was helping with the fact checking of the information on the monument and the interpretive panels, by sending the information to the Canadian Armed Forces for them to take a look. This partnership is part of the legacy piece that was promised following the Nation Apology event.

Women's History Project

B. Borden stated that he felt the Town was snubbed during the event as there was no thanking of the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee that put many hours in being the liaison with the Women's History Project, the Town and the Community.

B. Borden noted that the panels did turn out beautifully and that the event was extremely well attended even with the terrible weather.

M. Dolter stated that the walkways at the park should be completed by early fall.

African Nova Scotian Historic Landmarks and Recognition

N. Jackson explained that the George Jones Memorial Fire Station signage would be installed on the fire station in the near future. N. Jackson stated that once the signage was installed it would need to be covered until the unveiling event.

N. Jackson stated that once an unveiling event date had been set, he would have M. Burgess send it out to the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee and Town Council.

N. Jackson noted that a street closure permit would most likely be needed for the day of the event.

Communications for Membership

On motion of N. Jackson and B. Borden it was recommended that T. Drummond join the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee as a voting member. T. Drummond gladly accepted the position of voting member for the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee. Motion carried.

It was agreed that as A. Paris was no longer an ANSA resource member of the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee and had earlier in the meeting agreed to take on the position of Co-Chair with the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee, vacant Community Committee seats had been filled.

Truro Fire Service Cadet

N. Jackson explained that D. Churchill had completed a couple job shadowing shifts with the Truro Fire Service. N. Jackson stated that the insurance was currently going through CCRCE.

N. Jackson stated that D. Churchill was investigating Holland College as well as the Truro Volunteer Fire Brigade.

N. Jackson noted that it would be worth looking into a cadet training program with the Truro Fire Service for diverse hires.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by N. Gray.