



**African Nova Scotian Community
Strategy Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 17th, 2025**

A meeting of the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee of the Town of Truro was held on Monday, November 17th, 2025, at 12:00pm at the Douglas Street Recreation Centre.

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

In attendance: A. Grant and M. Burgess

Regrets: CAO M. Dolter, J. Collins, B. Borden, N. Gillis and M. Yiridoe

Approval of the Agenda

M. Burgess requested that introduction of Tamara Tynes Powell and Review of Minutes be added to the agenda.

W. Talbot requested that TPAC Sub-Committee Update be added to the agenda on an ongoing basis to the Updates Section of the Committee's Agenda.

On motion of W. Talbot and N. Gray the agenda was approved as amended.

Review of Minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the October 2nd and October 20th, 2025, meetings.

Introduction of Tamara Tynes Powell

T. Tynes Powell introduced herself as the new Program Administration Officer of the Northern Region with African Nova Scotian Affairs.

Community Garden / Greenhouse at Stan Chook Maxwell Memorial Park

N. Gray explained that she had been speaking with the Nova Scotia Public Works Department and they were helping to deal with the Greenhouse situation.

N. Gray explained that the Minister of Agriculture had contacted her regarding the greenhouse. N. Gray stated that the Department of Agriculture had an engineering firm that

may be able to sign off on the plans for a fee. N. Gray informed the Committee that she had sent the greenhouse plans off to be reviewed.

N. Gray noted that this issue was currently being discussed by 4 different ministers.

N. Gray stated Cassie Kifle would be a great asset when discussing the Community Garden and the Greenhouse at Stan Chook Maxwell Memorial Park.

N. Gray requested that M. Burgess check to see if the Community Garden box fees had been paid for the last two seasons.

M. Burgess agreed to investigate the matter.

Renaming of Ford Street / Robie Street Park

The Committee reviewed a draft document prepared by A. Grant for the renaming contest for the Ford Street / Robie Street Park.

A. Paris suggested that the closing date be pushed into January to allow extra time with the Holiday season falling in that timeframe.

The Committee agreed to move the closing date to January 9th. The Committee agreed to meet the week following the contest closure to discuss the name submissions.

Funding Requests Process Draft

A. Grant explained that she had updated the eligibility section to allow for more flexibility for applicant organizations.

A. Grant also explained that there would be limited funds available for the current year's budget.

A. Grant suggested that for next year's budget the Committee may want to allocate a specific amount of the budget for grant money.

A. Grant also suggested that the guidelines be advertised in April when the new budget starts.

A. Grant explained that the Town also has a Municipal Grants Policy that comes with an annual deadline of January 31st.

African Heritage Month

N. Jackson suggested the date of February 13th for the Seniors Luncheon at the George Jones Memorial Fire Station.

M. Burgess agreed to check in with the Fire Hall regarding availability.

N. Jackson explained that a Committee had been formed to host an African Heritage Month Gala, tentatively scheduled for February 28th at the Inn on Prince.

N. Jackson explained that a funding request would be coming to the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee from the African Heritage Month Gala Planning Committee, as the Committee was looking for sponsorships to help keep the ticket prices down for Community members.

N. Jackson stated that the African Heritage Month Gala Planning Committee would also be reaching out to the Province of Nova Scotia regarding funding opportunities.

T. Tynes Powell stated that ANSA typically buys a table at African Heritage Month Galas.

The Committee discussed hosting the Town's African Heritage Kickoff on Sunday, February 1st, 2026, at the George Jones Memorial Fire Station.

M. Burgess agreed to check in with the Fire Hall regarding availability.

T. Tynes Powell agreed to check with Cape Breton to make sure their African Heritage Month Gala does not conflict with the February 1st date.

Updates

TPAC Sub-Committee

W. Talbot explained that he sent in a request to have the scope of the Truro Planning Advisory Committee (TPAC) Sub-Committee be broadened to the entire Community.

ANSA

T. Tynes Powell explained that she had joined the ANSA team as the new Program Administration Officer of the Northern Region.

Budget Update

A. Grant explained that the Committee had around \$10,000 remaining in their budget for the 2025/2026 budget year.

TBCDA

W. Talbot explained that the Truro Black Cultural Development Association would be reaching out to the Town to ask for support.

Emancipation Day Funding Request from CEA

A. Paris explained that he has not heard back from CEA following the email he sent regarding their Emancipation Day Funding Request.

T. Tynes Powell agreed to reach out to CEA's leadership.

W. Talbot explained that some individuals were having a hard time booking the Unity Room.

N. Jackson explained that the monitor was not working in the Unity Room the last time he was in it.

It was questioned who was accountable for the Unity Room and its contents.

Town of Truro DEI Initiatives Update

As N. Gillis was ill and not in attendance, a Town of Truro DEI Initiatives Update was not available.

No. 2 Construction Battalion Update

The Committee agreed that the Official Renaming & Monument Unveiling Ceremony at the No. 2 Construction Battalion Athletic Facility event went well.

The Committee agreed that it would be meaningful to have an annual event at the site.

The Committee also agreed that it would be meaningful to honour the 106th Battalion at the site as well.

N. Jackson explained that he had fielded some questions following the event regarding missing monument names and that he had to explain that those individuals were actually members of the 106th Battalion.

It was agreed that the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee should lay a wreath annually at the Legion's Remembrance Day Service.

African Nova Scotian Landmarks

N. Jackson explained that he was getting some requests for tours of the Three Traditional African Nova Scotian Neighbourhoods in Truro.

Truro Cemetery Update

N. Jackson explained that the Truro Cemetery was on Johnathan Fowler's 2026 schedule for Ground penetrating Radar.

N. Jackson stated that he would be following up with the Zion Baptist Church to let them know the Ground Penetrating Radar would be happening.

N. Jackson explained that he was hoping the Cemetery would be able to apply for Heritage Status for this portion of the Cemetery once the Ground Penetrating Rader is completed.

N. Jackson stated that depending on whether Mr. Fowler charged for the Ground Penetrating Rader he may need to put in a funding request to ANSA for the project.

W. Talbot stated that he wasn't aware there were two sites at the cemetery until N. Jackson gave a tour / presentation on the subject.

Questions from Members

Truro Golf Course – Driving Range

N. Gray questioned what the status of the Truro Golf Course Driving Range is.

A. Paris explained that he had met with the Golf Course and that they were looking to potentially apply for recreation grants to modernize their driving range that would allow them to take down their netting.

It was explained that these conversations were very much in the preliminary stages and that nothing is concrete.

A. Paris explained that the discussion had followed him from his position with ANSA to CCTH.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by W. Talbot.