



**African Nova Scotian Community
Strategy Committee**
Meeting Minutes
October 2nd, 2025

A meeting of the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee of the Town of Truro was held on Thursday, October 2nd, 2025, at 12:00pm at the Douglas Street Recreation Centre.

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

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

Regrets: J. Collins, B. Borden, T. Drummond, N. Gray and M. Yiridoe

Approval of the Agenda

On motion of W. Talbot and N. Jackson the agenda was approved as circulated.

Approval of the Minutes

The Committee reviewed the circulated minutes from the June 19th, 2025, meeting.

It was requested that the following be added to the minutes: It was agreed that A. Paris would meet with CEA to discuss the name change of the Ford Street / Robie Street Park, prior to meeting with the Sub-Committee.

Diversity Recruitment

W. Talbot stated that Chief MacNeil has not had any individuals put their name forward for the diverse recruitment opportunity at the Police Academy.

W. Talbot speculated that Community Members do not want to police their own community.

N. Jackson questioned whether the same process could take place for a Truro Fire Service hire.

M. Dolter stated that new hires for the Truro Fire Service would likely take place in April.

N. Jackson questioned what could be done in the meantime as he was aware of an individual that would be interested in applying to work with the Truro Fire Service.

M. Dolter agreed to have Chief Currie review the resume of A. Allen to see if there were any gaps that could be filled prior to the next round of hiring for the Truro Fire Service.

A. Paris recommended that Chief MacNeil reach out to the new ANSA Program Coordinator for the Fundy Region to discuss the diverse recruitment opportunity at the Police Academy.

It was agreed that A. Paris and W. Talbot would meet offline to discuss this opportunity.

N. Gillis stated that she would be meeting with the Town's Manager of Human Resources and Chief MacNeil to see how the Town can better advertise employment opportunities.

Terms of Reference Review

The Committee agreed to table this agenda item to the next meeting.

Community Garden / Greenhouse

A. Paris stated that Minister Ritcey and Minister Tilley of Public Works are aware of the roadblocks with the Greenhouse.

M. Dolter stated that the code states the drawings need to be stamped by a Nova Scotian Engineer, meaning our senior building official states the greenhouse plans need to be stamped by Nova Scotian Engineers.

M. Dolter explained that this greenhouse is not considered a modular building.

M. Dolter stated that the MOU originally signed with Dalhousie for the greenhouse stated that the greenhouse was a removeable structure.

M. Dolter explained that he recognizes the frustrations, but he cannot go against his senior building official, when they are basing their decision off the Nova Scotia Building Code.

A. Paris agreed to speak with members from the Halifax Regional Municipality regarding the greenhouse at the Hammonds Plains Recreation Centre.

M. Dolter questioned whether the Nova Scotia Department of Public Works had an engineer that could stamp the plans. A. Paris agreed to check with the Nova Scotia Department of Public Works to see if they had an engineer that could stamp the plans.

A. Grant agreed to see if the grant funding deadline could be extended.

M. Dolter explained that a maintenance plan would need to be figured out as well, as the MOU does not state that the Town of Truro is held accountable for any maintenance of the greenhouse.

Emancipation Day Funding Request – CEA

A. Paris explained that CEA sent a funding request in to the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee for \$1000 to help them accomplish Emancipation Day activities in Truro.

On motion of N. Jackson and W. Talbot the Committee agreed to have CEA identify the gap in their funding for Emancipation Day Activities with a total of up to \$1000. It was also agreed that a budget breakdown of what was spent must also be submitted. Motion carried.

It was agreed by the Committee that the Back-to-School Event must also submit a budget breakdown for their event funding.

Funding Requests Process

A. Grant agreed to draft a policy for the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee regarding a funding requests process, that was in line with the Town's Municipal Grant Policy as well as the ANSA grants. The Committee agreed that a cap needed to be put on the funds that were able to be allocated.

Renaming of Ford Street / Robie Street Park

A. Paris recommended that the name Reparations Park be put forward for the renaming of Ford Street and Robie Street Park

A. Paris noted that when he connected with Shelley MacLean, the only living individual on the Women's History Project Panel, she was fine with moving forward with the name Reparations Park.

A. Paris explained that CEA said that the name was decided at a meeting.

A. Paris expressed concern that naming the Park anything other than Reparations Park could create a divide in the Community.

W. Talbot explained that he had constituents questioning the name and where it came from.

A. Paris questioned the naming process for the park up to this point in time.

M. Dolter explained that the Town was caught off guard as the Town was not planning on renaming the Park.

W. Talbot mentioned that some names had been submitted to the Town for the renaming of the Park.

It was agreed that no one was aware where the names were being submitted.

I. McGrath questioned how to proceed with this process.

A. Paris noted that he did not want this specific process to hurt the Community.

A. Paris also noted that Community members on the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee would wear the brunt of the fallout from the naming process.

A. Paris confirmed that the Sub-Committee had not yet solicited the Community regarding the renaming of the park.

W. Talbot suggested that Committee Members check with Mayor Hinton to see if she had met with / spoken to Community members regarding the name change.

The Committee agreed to add this agenda item to the agenda for the next Committee meeting.

It was agreed that N. Jackson, W. Talbot, and A. Paris would meet to discuss this agenda item.

W. Talbot stated that it would be important to explain to the Community that the Committee wanted to give the Community a fair voice and a chance to be involved in the naming process.

It was agreed that if a naming selection process was put out to the Community that the Committee should write a letter to CEA to invite them to suggest the name Reparations Park.

Updates

Budget Update

M. Burgess circulated a budget update.

No. 2 Construction Battalion Update

M. Dolter stated that the Town was moving ahead with a date of November 8th for the Official Renaming & Monument Unveiling Ceremony at the No. 2 Construction Battalion Athletic Facility.

A. Grant explained that she had been working with the monument company on the final details for the monument.

M. Burgess explained that R. Grosse from the Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia would be sending the invitation to descendants of the No. 2 Construction Battalion.

The Committee agreed to use the alert system, social media, local media, local phone trees as well as contacts of the Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia to get the word out on the event.

M. Burgess explained that R. Grosse had been instrumental in confirming monument information and agreeing to get the word out to descendants and community members across the province.

M. Dolter explained to the Committee that the monument would not be facing the field instead of the street due to the slope of the monument location.

Next Meeting Date

It was agreed by the Committee that the next meeting of the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee would take place on Monday, October 20th at 12:00noon at the Douglas Street Recreation Centre.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by W. Talbot.