

A special meeting of the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee of the Town of Truro was held on Monday, October 20th, 2025, at 12:00pm at the Douglas Street Recreation Centre.

Present: A. Paris, N. Jackson, B. Borden, T. Drummond, Councillor W. Talbot,

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

Regrets: Councillor I. McGrath J. Collins, N. Gray and M. Yiridoe

Approval of the Agenda

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

Renaming of Ford Street / Robie Street Park

A. Paris explained that he had a discussion with Mayor Hinton regarding the renaming of Ford Street / Robie Street Park.

A. Paris explained that name suggestions for the Park from S. MacLean and B. Borden were passed along to Mayor Hinton.

A. Paris noted that if we go out to the Community for the renaming of the park it must be to the entire Community.

B. Borden questioned whether the process was similar to what the Town had done for renaming other parks. He stated that the process of naming this park needed to be the same.

B. Borden noted that there was a sign at the location that said Reparations Park prior to the event.

B. Borden explained that consultation for the renaming of the park needed to cover the entire Community to ensure everyone is able to participate.

N. Jackson stated that the Committee needed to be very intentional, getting the word out using every communication tool available. Phone trees, alert system, social media, school

system, ANSA staff, stuffing mailboxes, African Nova Scotian Student Support Workers at local schools, etc.

The Committee agreed it was very important to engage the youth in the process.

A. Paris explained that he didn't want a plot of land to cause a divide in the Community.

The Committee agreed that a strong campaign was needed for the name change of the park. Communication needs to go out properly with ample time given for community members to participate.

It was agreed that the name could be announced during African Heritage Month.

On motion of B. Borden and N. Jackson it was recommended that a comprehensive naming campaign be sent out to the Community at Large, similar to the No. 2 Construction Battalion Athletic Facility naming contest process and the Unity Room naming process with a lot of attention put on ensuring the information is passed along to the Community at large. Motion carried.

A. Grant agreed to create a draft naming process / communication tool for the Committee to review at the next Committee meeting.

Funding Requests Process Draft

A. Grant prepared a draft Funding Requests Policy for the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee. It was agreed that the Committee would review the policy and bring back comments to the next Committee meeting.

N. Jackson questioned whether groups needed to be incorporated in order to be eligible for funding.

It was agreed that if the initiative / opportunity was connected to the Committee it would be eligible for funding.

Updates

ANSA

A. Paris announced that Tamara Tynes Powell was now in the role of Program Administration Officer for the Northern Region with the Office of African Nova Scotian Affairs.

Budget Update

A budget update was circulated at the last regular Committee meeting.

It was agreed by the Committee that African Heritage Month be added to the agenda for the next Committee Meeting.

N. Jackson stated that he had heard talk about a potential gala for African Heritage Month.

Town of Truro DEI Initiatives Update

N. Gillis gave an overview of the DEI Initiatives currently being worked on by the Town of Truro.

N. Gillis explained that new DEI training would be rolling out to Town Staff in the near future.

N. Gillis stated that a wheelchair accessibility audit would be completed of the Town's Council Chambers.

N. Gillis highlighted that the Town along with other organizations and partners in the area would be hosting a Seniors and Newcomers Wellness Expo November 3rd to 7th.

N. Jackson suggested that once a year Senior Staff meet with the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee to discuss what they are doing within their departments regarding DEI Initiatives and the African Nova Scotian Community. N. Jackson stated that this would help build a stronger relationship between Senior Staff and the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee.

N. Gillis explained that once the Town's Anti-Racism Plan was complete there would be Community consultations to showcase the plan.

It was questioned whether there could be a Community Meeting including Senior Staff.

N. Gillis stated that there was a Newcomer Voice event taking place on November 13th at the Millbrook Cultural and Heritage Centre.

It was agreed that the Committee would invite Chief MacNeil back to a future meeting to discuss where he is at with the Diversity Recruitment for the Policy Academy seat and how we can best move forward with the process in the future.

No. 2 Construction Battalion Update

M. Burgess gave an update on the event planning so far for the Official Renaming & Monument Unveiling Ceremony at the No. 2 Construction Battalion Athletic Facility.

The Sub-Committee along with Russell Grosse were working on event plans and they were going well.

M. Burgess confirmed that there was a full program including a smudging, speeches, musical entertainment, a wreath laying ceremony, monument unveiling, participation from the local legion and local cadet groups as well as a reception to follow at the Truro Golf Club.

African Nova Scotian Landmarks

N. Jackson explained that there was a heritage group coming to Truro for a full day tour, ending the day in Millbrook.

Truro Cemetery Update

N. Jackson explained that he met with the Truro Cemetery Corporation. He also explained that he had connected with an individual that performed ground penetrating radar and that the Truro Cemetery was on the list for 2026.

N. Jackson stated that he met with a resident on Young Street regarding an issue about a piece of property that was land locked in the 1950's. N. Jackson questioned whether it would be appropriate to invite the individual to the Committee to discuss the issue. N. Jackson explained that the property could not be developed as it was landlocked when another owner purchased an adjacent property.

W. Talbot and M. Dolter agreed to discuss the issue with J. Fox to get a better understanding of the issue.

N. Jackson agreed to send the property information discussed above to W. Talbot and M. Dolter.

Questions from Members

Youth Member

A. Paris explained that N. Gray had put forward the name Cassie Kifle to fill the youth member seat on the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee.

On motion of B. Borden and N. Jackson the Committee agreed to invite Cassie Kifle to fill the youth member seat on the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee.

Motion carried.

Greenhouse at Stan Chook Maxwell Memorial Park

B. Borden explained that he was frustrated with how the process for the Greenhouse at the Stand Chook Maxwell Memorial Park was going.

M. Dolter explained that the Building Code was what was holding the Town back from installing the greenhouse.

A. Paris explained that he was meeting with the Nova Scotia Department of Public Works later that week to discuss the engineering of the Greenhouse Plans.

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, November 17th at 12:00noon at the Douglas Street Recreation Centre.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by W. Talbot.