**African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee**
Meeting Minutes
January 14th, 2026

A meeting of the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee of the Town of Truro was held on Wednesday, January 14th, 2026, 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, J. Collins, B. Borden, C. Kifle, and N. Gray

**In attendance:** CAO M. Dolter, A. Grant, N. Gillis, K. Borden, F. Collins, and M. Burgess

**Regrets:**

**Approval of the Agenda**
On motion of N. Jackson and B. Borden the agenda was approved as circulated.

**Review of Minutes**
The Committee reviewed the minutes from the November 17th, 2026, meeting. A. Grant requested that M. Dolter and N. Gillis be moved from in attendance to regrets as they were not in attendance.

The minutes were approved as amended.

**Introduction of New Committee Member Cassie Kifle**
C. Kifle introduced herself to the Committee.

Committee members introduced themselves to C. Kifle.

**Review of Ford Street / Robie Street Park Naming Contest Submissions**
T. Tynes Powell excused herself from the discussion.

The Committee requested clarification on who was in attendance representing the Community Enhancement Association and the Zion United Baptist Church. Krista Borden and Jody Collins confirmed that they were representing the Community Enhancement Association. Frances Collins confirmed that he was representing the Zion United Baptist Church.

A. Paris made a request for Volunteers to help with the accessibility voting process, if required.

N. Jackson, N. Gillis, A. Paris, and I. McGrath agreed to help with the accessibility vote.

B. Borden wanted it noted in the record that he was completely against the entire process as it shed the Town of Truro and the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee in a bad light.

N. Gray requested that B. Borden elaborate.

B. Borden explained that the No. 2 Construction Battalion renaming process was different. B. Borden stated that the contest consisted of Community Members submitting names and then the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee chose the name out of the submitted names. No community vote was held.

B. Borden explained that the process for the renaming of the park this time included a Community vote, which was a flawed process and differed from the previous naming contest held by the Committee.

B. Borden stated that the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee was created to be a voice for the African Nova Scotian Community and by allowing the process to be changed for this park was giving that power to individuals that are not from the Community.

T. Drummond explained that he echoed B. Borden's thoughts.

B. Borden questioned whether the Committee could make decisions on the process.

M. Dolter explained that the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee is unique in the fact that it was created to help guide processes for the African Nova Scotian Community.

K. Borden stated that the renaming of the park had created a divide in the Community.

N. Jackson stated that we needed to stick to the process that was discussed and go with the Community Vote.

W. Talbot stated that he agreed with N. Jackson.

B. Borden stated that he believed we were pushed into a corner. He explained that the name Reparations Park was a provincial campaign.

As C. Kifle was new to the Committee she questioned if the name Reparations Park was being pushed by members from outside the Community and questioned if it was a reflective name.

W. Talbot explained that the Women's Historical Society was a group from Halifax, which stated they had ongoing consultation with the Community Enhancement Association.

K. Borden explained that she looked through the Associations meeting minutes and was unable to find any documentation of conversations regarding the name, therefore the Community Enhancement Association was not consulted.

M. Dolter explained that the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee can ultimately make a decision regarding the process.

N. Gray stated that Council would need to make a statement supporting the Committee's decision.

B. Borden questioned what would be included on the ballot.

A. Grant explained that the name suggestions and reasoning would be advertised on the ballot.

T. Drummond stated that this was a learning process for moving forward.

M. Dolter explained that leaving the meeting in the Mayor's Office, it was felt that a Community Vote would be included in the process.

B. Borden questioned whether the meeting in the Mayor's Office was a safe space for all individuals to express their opinions and concerns.

It was agreed by the Committee that the vote would be targeted to the African Nova Scotian Community via the TC Alert African Nova Scotian Community Notices section.

On motion of N. Gray and W. Talbot it was agreed that the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee would select three names and also include the name Reparations Park and those names would be put forward for a vote in the Truro and Colchester African Nova Scotian Community. Motion carried with B. Borden voting against the motion.

It was agreed that Committee members would send their top three choices of names from the list of submitted names to M. Burgess by end of day on Thursday, January 15th, 2026.

**African Heritage Month**

A. Paris requested that any additions to the African Heritage Month calendar be sent to M. Burgess to be added.

N. Gillis informed the Committee that the Village of Bible Hill would be hosting a question-and-answer panelist event in partnership with the Town of Truro called Come Sit with Us on February 18th.

A. Paris explained that the Town of Truro's African Heritage Month Kickoff would taking place on Sunday, February 1st at the George Jones Memorial Fire Station at 3:00pm.

It was agreed by the Committee that the CEC youth singers that performed at the No. 2 Construction Battalion Monument Unveiling would be asked to perform both Lift Every Voice and O' Canada at the Kickoff Event.

N. Jackson explained that there was a student from CEC that performed spoken word that would be interested in participating in the kickoff. The Committee agreed that it would be a great addition to the event. N. Jackson agreed to make contact with the student to invite them to participate.

The Committee agreed to invite E. Dorrington to perform a Libation ceremony during the event.

C. Kifle stated that she had some works of art from a research project from a spoken word artist that was the first black graduating student from DAL AC.

**TBCDA Strategic Plan Support**

N. Jackson explained that it would be around $15,000 for the Strategic Plan process for TBCDA.

N. Jackson stated that TBCDA would be making a funding request to the Town of Truro to help with the cost of the Strategic Planning process.

On motion of B. Borden and C. Kifle it was agreed that the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee would write a letter to support the request as the Strategic Plan would support the local African Nova Scotian Community. Motion carried.

N. Gray agreed to write the letter of support on behalf of the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee.

N. Jackson explained that TBCDA would be building the Strategic Plan on a business model.

**Community Garden / Greenhouse at Stan Chook Maxwell Memorial Park**

N. Gray explained that an Engineer that does some work for the Department of Agriculture was reviewing the plans for the Greenhouse at the Community Garden. N. Gray stated that she was hoping she would have an update for the next Committee meeting.

**Black Youth Planting Their Futures Summer Program**

N. Gray explained that the Black Youth Planting Their Futures Summer Program was aiming to have twenty-five students employed through the program this year.

**Questions from Members**

N. Gray stated that she noticed the cover of the Regional Anti-Racism Strategic Plan was missing representation from the African Nova Scotian Community.

N. Gillis agreed to make a change to the cover of the Regional Anti-Racism Strategic Plan to include representation from the African Nova Scotian Community.

A. Paris requested that Minutes from the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee meetings needed to be added to the Town's Official Website.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by W. Talbot.