African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee

Meeting Minutes
June 16th, 2026

A meeting of the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee of the Town of Truro was held on Tuesday, June 16th, 2026, at 12:00pm at the Douglas Street Recreation Centre.

Present: A. Paris, Councillor I. McGrath, N. Jackson, Councillor W. Talbot, T. Tynes Powell, B. Borden, C. Kifle, and N. Gray.

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

Regrets: T. Drummond

Approval of the Agenda

I. McGrath began the meeting with a Land and People Acknowledgement. He recognized that we are gathered on Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq People, and acknowledged the significant contributions of the African Nova Scotia Community to our province over the past four hundred years, despite enduring generations of inequality due to systemic racism.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Review of Minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the May 19th, 2026, meeting.

The minutes were approved as circulated.

Community Garden / Stan Chook Maxwell Memorial Park

B. Borden explained that the greenhouse that was originally given to the town was too large to be put up without the plans being stamped by an engineer and did not meet local building requirements.

It was explained that information for a new greenhouse that fell within proper NS building requirements had been sent down to the Town's procurement department.

B. Borden stated that it was important to ensure that the greenhouse fell within the correct dimensions.

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B. Borden suggested that two 10 x 20 greenhouses be put on a slab in the park.

M. Dolter explained that the greenhouse should be weighted for snow and ice.

N. Gray explained that patience would be required to see the success of the greenhouse as it would likely take 3-5 years to reach its maximum potential of usage and output.

M. Burgess explained that the garden boxes had been paid for the 2025 growing season.

N. Gray explained that the Community Enhancement Association (CEA) would be paying for the 2026 season.

M. Burgess explained that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and an invoice for the 2026 growing season had been sent to CEA.

C. Kifle explained that she had been discussing the revamp and future accessibility of the Stan Chook Maxwell Memorial Park with the Community.

It was explained that the community's request for the revitalization of Stan Chook Maxwell Memorial Park has been forwarded to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department and Town of Truro staff for evaluation as a potential future capital project.

T. Tynes-Powell stated the importance of making the park accessible for all community members.

Strategic Plan Review

N. Gillis gave updates regarding the review of the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee's Strategic Plan.

N. Gillis explained that she was in the process of reviewing the Town's Policies with T. Totten, the Town's Manager of Human Resources.

N. Jackson explained that the Chignecto Central Regional Centre for Education (CCRCE) and the Province had employees that have been part of a diverse hiring pool for multiple years.

M. Dolter explained that the Truro Fire Service was looking at completing targeted hiring to diversify the crews. He stated that there may even be potential to help interested individuals attend the appropriate training.

N. Jackson explained that he had passed along a resume of an interested individual in the past to the Truro Fire Service.

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C. Kifle stated that we need to ensure that we do not tokenize diverse individuals and ensure that all questions that are asked are the same for all candidates.

C. Kifle explained that if we do not get any diverse applicants, we need to explore what the next step is and why we did not get any applicants and how do we change that going forward.

C. Kifle stated that she would be interested in having a discussion with N. Gillis regarding the Town's hiring process.

It was agreed that it was important to ensure that staff are mentored and supported throughout the hiring process and the initial stages of employment for new hires.

It was agreed that N. Gray, N. Gillis, and A. Paris would meet regarding the Strategic Plan Review.

The Marsh Community Park Signage

The Committee reviewed the two signage options provided for The Marsh Community Park.

N. Jackson stated that it would be meaningful if the park could have a Ford Street civic address. The Committee agreed that they liked the overall design of Option # 2, with the wording from Option #1, and the addition of the Ford Street Civic Address.

M. Burgess agreed to have A. Bent, the Town's GIS Technician, create a new sign with the combination of the above recommendations. It was agreed that M. Burgess would send out the new draft via email.

Updates

ANSA Update

T. Tynes Powell explained that the Annual No. 2 Construction Battalion Commemoration Event would be taking place on Saturday, July 4th in Pictou at the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church.

T. Tynes Powell also stated The Delmore 'Buddy' Daye Learning Institute would be hosting a 'Emancipate Your Mind' Panel Discussion with Senator Wanda Thomas Bernard on July 13th from 6:00pm – 8:00pm, location TBD.

T. Tynes Powell noted that the next Community Enhancement Association Meeting would be taking place on the evening of Wednesday, June 17th, 2026.

T. Tynes Powell explained that TBCDA and the Education Committee were hosting a Kickoff to Canada Day Celebration / End of School Year Celebration on June 28th in Stan Chook Maxwell Memorial Park.

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T. Tynes Powell informed the Committee that Minister Grosse, Minister of African Nova Scotian Affairs was doing a Tour of Nova Scotia, and she was hoping that Minister Grosse would attend the Kickoff to Canada Day Celebration / End of School Year Celebration.

T. Tynes Powell explained that Savannah with the Delmore Buddy Daye Learning Institute was accepting information on Emancipation Day Events.

Town of Truro EDIA Initiatives Update
N. Gillis confirmed that staff are continuing to work through the *Foundations of Belonging in the Workplace* training, with Senior Staff set to complete Module 9 and Managers and Coordinators set to complete Module 4. The training consists of 11 modules. Once Senior Staff have completed all modules, N. Gillis will work with HR Manager T. Totten to review the next group of employees who will be assigned the training.

In addition, N. Gillis hosted an Access Awareness Week Panel on June 4 in collaboration with local non-profit organization, the Lemonaid Stand Society, with fellow ANSCSC member T. Tynes Powell serving as a parent advocate on the panel. The event was well attended, with 35 confirmed participants, and discussions are already underway regarding opportunities to highlight other accessibility-related topics next year. N. Gillis is also hosting a celebration of 10 Years of Truro Pride on June 23, with Mayor Hinton and Chief MacNeil confirmed as speakers, alongside a Two-Spirit speaker who will share their perspectives on belonging.

Lastly, N. Gillis confirmed that she has been named Chair of the AMANS Equity, Anti-Racism, and Accessibility Advisory Committee, with her first meeting in this new role scheduled for July.

C. Kifle questioned whether anyone on the Committee had any contacts for mentors that could help individuals with different delays.

N. Gillis and T. Tynes Powell stated that they both had names of some contacts in the Community.

TPAC Sub-Committee
J. Fox explained that a West Prince Area Advisory Committee had been created following the most recent Juniper Street Development Application.

J. Fox stated that no formal applications have been put forward for the above Committee.

T. Tynes Powell agreed to help with the process of getting the names for the formal applications and making a call for volunteers if needed.

T. Tynes Powell agreed to reach out to A. Grant in the process.

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J. Fox explained that if we are looking to broaden the reach of the Advisory Committee to all three traditional African Nova Scotian Neighbourhoods an amendment would need to be made to the Province to clarify the boundaries and it would also need to be ensured that all three neighbourhoods had representation on the Advisory Committee.

Truro Cemetery Update
N. Jackson explained that J. Hunt from the Colchester Historeum had prepared a document for Dr. Fowler regarding the Truro Cemetery and that he had also sent some additional information to Dr. Fowler for the project.

Black Youth Planting Their Futures Program
N. Gray explained that eighteen youths had been hired for the 2026 program.

N. Gray stated that Imhotep's Legacy Academy would be hosting a Sprouting Science Camp in Truro from July 27th – 31st at the DAL AC. She explained that this was a free camp for African Nova Scotian Youth in grades 4 -6.

Young Street / Fairview Drive Property Issue Update
There has been no update on this item since the previous meeting.

N. Jackson explained that TBCDA questioned how to keep land in the traditional African Nova Scotian Neighbourhood's in the Community and how do other Communities across the Province manage similar situations.

A. Grant suggested that TBCDA reach out to the Cooperative Council to set up a meeting.

N. Jackson was hopeful that the Town could right their wrongs from years ago regarding the Young Street / Fairview Drive Property Issue.

T. Tynes Powell questioned if there was a formula for where / when sidewalks are placed / replaced on a roadway.

J. Fox explained that the Town's sidewalks are built within the Town's right-of-way and that they do not use residential land from residents.

J. Fox also explained that a piece of the Town's Land was landlocked that was attached to the discussed property.

N. Jackson stated that it would be wonderful if the Fairview Drive property could one day be developed into a low-income housing development.

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C. Kifle explained that it would be beneficial to focus on how the Committee could help move issues / policies forward within the Town.

Questions from Members

ANSCSC Summer Student Position

N. Jackson explained that once again the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee was hoping to hire a Summer Student to help with some research projects / complete some community engagement / partake in Community Events. N. Jackson explained that the funds for the position would come out of the Committee Budget.

On motion of B. Borden and C. Kifle it was agreed to move forward with ANSCSC Summer Student Position. Motion carried.

Communications Plan & Committee Press Release

It was agreed that N. Gillis, A. Grant, and M. Burgess would meet to discuss the Committee's Communication Plan and Committee Press Release.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by N. Jackson.

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