African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee

Meeting Minutes
May 19th, 2026

A meeting of the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee of the Town of Truro was held on Tuesday, May 19th, 2026, at 12:00pm at the Douglas Street Recreation Centre.

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

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

Regrets: B. Borden and C. Kifle

Approval of the Agenda

M. Dolter requested that The Marsh Community Park be added under the Updates section of the agenda. On motion of N. Jackson and W. Talbot the agenda was approved as amended.

Review of Minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the April 2nd, 2026, meeting.

The minutes were approved as circulated.

Community Garden / Stan Chook Maxwell Memorial Park

N. Gray explained that she met with the Community Enhancement Association (CEA) and had a discussion regarding past payment of the community garden boxes. N. Gray stated that she recently received an email from CEA asking if the Department of Agriculture was paying for the boxes again for the 2026 season. N. Gray also explained that she had the conversation with CEA that if any of the community garden boxes were not being used the Department of Agriculture could help manage those boxes.

N. Gray explained that currently all garden boxes had a name affiliated with them.

T. Tynes Powell also stated that TBCDA agreed to pay for any boxes that were not being used. She explained that they would plant them and use the food to give back to the community.

M. Burgess explained that the Town had also met with CEA regarding the Community Garden Boxes. She stated that CEA had been given the same application forms that are used for the two other Community Garden Box sites to streamline the process and make it a similar process to the other two sites.

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A. Paris questioned what the barrier was for those folks not using their garden boxes and stated that we need to come up with a solution for the barrier.

A. Paris explained that Truro Golf Club was still waiting to hear back regarding their funding application for the driving range project.

A. Grant explained that an internal meeting regarding the revitalization of the park / playground would take place.

Strategic Plan Review

It was agreed that Committee Members would review the Strategic Plan Documents as circulated. It was also agreed that M. Burgess would circulate the two Strategic Plan Documents via email.

N. Gray explained that she sent a letter to Council in 2025 requesting that the Strategic Plan be extended through 2027.

N. Gillis explained that she was doing a complete overview of the Town's Policies.

It was agreed that N. Gillis would review the Strategic Plan and would inform the Committee what was completed through her role.

N. Jackson stated that the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee should have direct communication with Council.

The Committee agreed that the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee should give a regular update to Town Council. It was questioned which meeting the update should be given at. Either a Public Council Meeting or a Committee of the Whole Meeting.

It was agreed that a proper Press Release should go out to inform the Community, who is on the Committee, how to be a member of the Committee and how to contact the Committee. N. Gillis agreed to touch base with A. Grant and M. Carroll to start this process.

It was also agreed that the Committee needed to connect with the Community Enhancement Association to see if they are still interested in having a seat on the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee. The Committee agreed to have the CEA email added to the Committee's email distribution list.

It was agreed that the Community Enhancement Association would be invited to attend the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee's Strategic Plan Review as they are a valued partner of the Committee.

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The Committee agreed that an annual review of the Committee's Strategic Plan should take place.

N. Jackson questioned what training Town staff is currently going through with an EDIA lens.

N. Gillis agreed to give an update on the training at the next Committee meeting.

It was agreed that N. Gillis, N. Gray, and A. Paris would facilitate the Committee's Review of the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee's Strategic Plan.

Updates

ANSA Update

T. Tynes Powell stated that she had been busy meeting with Community.

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

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 Kick Off 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 still moving through *Foundations of Belonging* training, with Managers and Coordinators working through module 3, and Senior Staff working through module 7. This is an 11 module course, and a new rollout of participants will occur once Managers and Coordinators are complete.

N. Gillis additionally stated that a Panel is scheduled for *Access Awareness Week* (May 31 - June 6) on June 4 from 6:00pm - 8:00pm at the Village Fire Hall. She is also working on an internal and external bulletin for further learning for the week.

Lastly, N. Gillis discussed an event during Pride Week (June 22 - 27), where we are celebrating 10 years of pride, with speeches from Chief MacNeil, Mayor Hinton, and others who have been part of Pride over the last decade.

TPAC Sub-Committee

N. Jackson explained that the Community forwarded some concerns on to Jacob from the Planning and Development Department regarding the development at the top of Young Steet.

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N. Jackson stated that the community was under the understanding that they would have a chance to meet with the developer.

A. Grant agreed to connect with the Director of Planning and Development J. Fox regarding the development at the top of Young Street.

It was agreed that consultations for developments involving the African Nova Scotian Community should also come to the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee as well.

It was also agreed that the TPAC Sub-Committee should have representation from all three traditional African Nova Scotian Neighbourhoods.

N. Jackson explained that S. MacLean had agreed to be the Community Representative for the development at the top of Young Steet.

Truro Cemetery Update
N. Jackson explained that J. Hunt from the Colchester Historeum had prepared a document for Dr. Fowler regarding the Truro Cemetery.

Black Youth Planting Their Futures Program
N. Gray explained that applications had closed, interviews had taken place, and contracts had been sent out. N. Gray stated that eighteen students had been hired for the summer of 2026.

Young Street / Fairview Drive Property Issue Update
N. Jackson explained that J. McCready had connected with J. Willis, the individual that had been paying the taxes on the Young Street / Fairview Drive property. N. Jackson explained that although J. Willis has been paying the taxes on the property, he is not on the deed for the property.

T. Tynes Powell questioned whether the family would be interested in working it out through the Land Titles Division. T. Tynes Powell explained that the family would need to reach out to the Land Titles Division themselves.

It was questioned if the land went to tax sale, would the Town be able to purchase it.

M. Dolter explained that if the Town purchased the land through tax sale, they would be caught owning the property and would have to decide who it goes to / where it goes.

N. Jackson agreed to reach out to J. McCready to get the family to reach out to ANSA's Land Title Division to start the process.

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N. Jackson questioned whether the Town could add any caveats to their planning documents going forward to keep the land in the traditional neighbourhoods in the African Nova Scotian Community.

Emancipation Day
It was agreed that a meeting should be set up with the Community Enhancement Association to discuss plans for Emancipation Day 2026. It was agreed that M. Burgess, T, Tynes Powell, N. Gray, and N. Gillis would attend the meeting.

The Marsh Community Park
M. Dolter informed the Committee that the Town was in the process of creating signage for the park with its new name. M. Dolter explained that a draft of the signage would be sent to the Committee for their review.

M. Dolter explained that the Women's Historical Society would be paying for the lighting and fencing at the park.

M. Dolter stated that the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture would be completing the landscaping of the park.

M. Dolter also explained that a tree would be planted on-site in memory of Tina Clyke, sister of Town of Truro employee Gordie Clyke.

Questions from Members
N. Jackson stated that the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee hosted a meeting for local African Nova Scotian Community organizations in 2025. N. Jackson questioned whether the Committee would be interested in hosting it again this year as it is a wonderful way for organizations to network.

T. Tynes Powell suggested that the Office of African Nova Scotian Affairs host it this year, through her role as the Program Administration Officer for the Northern Region.

N. Jackson reminded the Committee of TBCDA's Community Engagement / Networking event coming up on May 23rd starting at 3:00pm at the Bible Hill Fire Hall.

Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned by N. Gillis.

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