African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee

Meeting Minutes
September 22nd, 2026

A meeting of the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee of the Town of Truro was held on Tuesday, September 22nd, 2026, at 12:00pm at the Douglas Street Recreation Centre.

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

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

Regrets: T. Tynes-Powell

Approval of the Agenda

A. Paris 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

A. Paris requested that item 4 – Strategic Plan Review, and 5 – Potential Tree Planting at the Stan Chook Maxwell Memorial Park switch order, on the agenda, as the Strategic Plan review would take a large chunk of time to review. On motion of W. Talbot and N. Jackson the agenda was approved as amended.

Review of Minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the June 16th, 2026, meeting.

On motion of C. Kifle and W. Talbot the minutes were approved as circulated.

Funding Request – TBCDA Fall Engagement Session

A. Paris and C. Kifle abstained from voting as they were involved in the event.

The Committee agreed that in future Funding Applications could be emailed out to the Committee to be voted on.

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The Committee reviewed a Funding Request for the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee (ANSCSC) Grants Program from TBCDA for their Fall Engagement Session in the amount of $325.

On motion of B. Borden and W. Talbot it was agreed by the Committee to grant the funding request from TBCDA for their Fall Engagement Session in the amount of $325. Motion carried.

Potential Tree Planting at Stan Chook Maxwell Memorial Park

M. Burgess explained that the Town's Urban Forestry Supervisor was hoping to plant some trees with the assistance of students from DAL AC to enhance the Stan Chook Maxwell Memorial Park.

After discussion the Committee agreed to the tree planting, pending it didn't impede upcoming park developments such as the greenhouse. It was also agreed that the Town's Urban Forestry Supervisor should consult with the PRC staff that maintain the park to ensure all were in agreement with the placement.

Strategic Plan Review

N. Gillis explained that she met with N. Gray and A. Paris to review and make edits to the original Strategic Plan.

The Committee reviewed the updated documents circulated.

W. Talbot requested that the agenda item be tabled to a future meeting to give the Committee the appropriate time to review and discuss the updated document.

C. Kifle suggested setting up a separate meeting solely to review and discuss the Strategic Plan.

A. Grant questioned if N. Gillis could highlight the overlap between the ANSCSC Strategic Plan and the Town's Anti-Racism Plan so the Committee could note the overlap at the Strategic Plan meeting.

It was agreed that A. Paris and M. Burgess would send out a Doodle Poll to the Committee to determine a meeting date for the Strategic Plan that accommodated as many Committee members as possible.

Updates

ANSA Update

As T. Tynes-Powell was not in attendance there was not an ANSA update.

A. Paris noted that the Province of Nova Scotia had announced funding for African Nova Scotian Community signage for the fifty plus African Nova Scotian communities across the province.

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N. Jackson questioned where the signage for Truro would be placed as Truro has three traditional African Nova Scotian neighbourhoods. He stated that hopefully the details for the signage for each community would be discussed prior to the Province placing the signage.

Town of Truro EDIA Initiatives Update

N. Gillis gave an update on the Town of Truro's Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility Initiatives.

N. Gillis stated that managers and Coordinators are still working through *Foundations of Belonging,* having now started module eight out of eleven. Next rollout will be for Police and for Fire.

N. Gillis explained that they would be hosting a Mi'kmaw History Month Panel in collaboration with the Millbrook Cultural & Heritage Centre on October 14 from 6-8 pm.

N. Gillis informed the Committee she was working with AMANS for their upcoming symposium from November 24-25, hosted at the Inn on Prince. N. Gillis explained she has been working with N. Jackson as a representative to speak about the history of the ANS community at the symposium.

TPAC Sub-Committee

J. Fox stated that the Committee was formally appointed by Council at the September Public Council meeting. J. Fox explained that currently the Sub-Committee only dealt with developments in the traditional African Nova Scotian Neighbourhood known as West Prince Street 'The Island'.

B. Borden explained that there was some confusion as to whether an additional name was left off the Committee list.

J. Fox explained that once the appointed Committee meets, they can review and modify the Terms of Reference. If the Committee wishes to modify the Terms of Reference to include the other two African Nova Scotian Neighbourhoods in Truro, they would need to be approved by Council. J. Fox also explained that this Committee is a part of the Town's Municipal Planning Strategy so at some point that revision would need to be passed along and approved by the Province.

T. Drummond stated that an email was sent to Mayor Hinton in February confirming the names that wished to be appointed to the Sub-Committee.

N. Jackson questioned whether the Golf Street development predated the Sub-Committee.

J. Fox confirmed that the Golf Street development predated the Sub-Committee.

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C. Kifle stated that during the first meeting of the TPAC Sub-Committee it should be a Committee priority to expand the boundaries of the Committee to include the other two traditional African Nova Scotian Neighbourhoods to the Committee's mandate.

N. Jackson suggested to modify the verbiage for the Committee Terms of Reference to include resident, descendants or individuals with a strong connection to the three traditional African Nova Scotian Neighbourhoods in Truro.

B. Borden stated that the Committee could bring the Community together.

It was agreed by the Committee that T. Drummond or J. Fox would give an update following the first TPAC Sub-Committee at the corresponding African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee.

Stan Chook Maxwell Memorial Park – Garden Boxes / Greenhouse Update
A. Grant informed the Committee that the newly ordered Greenhouse for the Stan Chook Maxwell Memorial Park would be installed by the end of September. A. Grant also explained that the tools from the funding request would also be purchased within the grant timelines. A. Grant explained that the funding for the fencing would not be used as no changes were needed to the current fencing.

B. Borden questioned whether a shed would be included in the installation.

A. Grant explained that a shed was not approved in the funding application.

C. Kifle requested that an overall funding update and project update be brought to a future meeting.

Truro Cemetery Update
N. Jackson explained that Dr. Fowler was still interested in completing the Truro Cemetery Project in Fall 2026 or Spring 2027, depending on his availability.

Black Youth Planting Their Futures Program
N. Gray explained that program employed eighteen youth for 2026. N. Gray stated that they were hoping to expand the program but unfortunately were not able to do so due to the provincial budget cutbacks.

N. Gray informed the Committee that the program took care of three garden boxes at the Stan Chook Maxwell Memorial Park and assisted the Colchester Food Network through their program.

N. Gray explained that one successful full-time position connection was made this year.

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N. Gray and B. Borden explained that Cobequid Educational Centre would have 33 graduates in 2027 that would be eligible for the Black Youth Planting Their Futures Program.

Young Street / Fairview Drive Property Issue Update
N. Jackson stated that there has been no update on this item since the previous meeting but made the request to keep it on the agenda for future meetings in the case that an update occurs.

African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee – Summer Student Position
N. Jackson stated that Paris Brown was hired as the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee's Summer Student.

N. Jackson explained that P. Brown completed multiple projects throughout her summer employment. He explained that P. Brown had helped complete research projects with the Historeum, took part in Community Engagement programs/activities with both the youth and senior populations, as well as started a photo data collection project. N. Jackson informed the Committee that the photo project had started with four families in 2026 with the hope that it would be continued in 2027. N. Jackson explained that project consisted of hard copy images being copied and recreated digitally for easier sharing and record keeping.

N. Jackson stated he was hoping to have P. Brown complete a few small projects over the 2026/2027 winter season.

M. Burgess stated that P. Brown was continuing to work casually for the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department throughout the year at programs and events.

Questions from Members
Newcomer Employment Funding
B. Borden questioned whether in the past the Town had secured funding for newcomer employment positions.

A. Grant explained that the Town was not eligible for that funding as they are municipal government.

B. Borden explained that it was his understanding that the Truro Golf Club driving range would be closed in the spring of 2027.

Young Street Development
C. Kifle questioned if the original reason for the rescheduling of the upcoming meeting for the Young Street Development meeting was known.

J. Fox explained that the developer was unable to attend the original meeting date. J. Fox also explained that the members of the TPAC wanted to ensure that the developer was in attendance for the meeting.

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C. Kifle requested that J. Fox send the document regarding the rezoning from the Municipal Planning Strategy to her.

C. Kifle questioned whether the data of what addresses completed the Municipal Planning Strategy survey were able to be requested through FOIPOP.

J. Fox explained that he would have to investigate which information from the survey could be shared.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by N. Jackson.

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