

ATTENDING

- Chair, Councillor Mike Butler
- Councillor Kelly van Niekerk
- Mayor Jodi MacKay
- Laura Strong
- Roody Shahniah
- Rev. Dr. Marjorie Lewis
- Barb Shaw, Manager of Communications and Strategic Initiatives
- Recorder, Laura Morrison

REGRETS

- Duncan Ebata

CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Councillor Mike Butler called the meeting to order at 4:30pm.

1. Approval of Agenda	THE AGENDA WAS APPROVED AS CIRCULATED.
2. Approval of the July 14, 2025 Minutes	THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 14, 2025 MEETING WERE APPROVED AS CIRCULATED.
3. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None
4. Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No-one for public comment
5. Comments from the Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appreciation for the Blanket Exercise which was organized by Town staff for staff and council as part of our ReconciliACTION.• On October 12, Devour is hosting DIWALI in the Valley.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council invited to a Meet & Greet with the Nigerians of Annapolis Valley on 25 October 3pm – 7pm at the Lions Club.
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6. New Business & Staff Reports for Discussion

<p>a. Municipal Asset Naming & Renaming Policy discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once approved the draft of this policy will move to Council Policy Taskforce for further review and then onto council for recommendation of approval and adoption. • Some feedback was received via email. • Further discussions on intersectionality and how is that prioritized. Consider a rubric as a way of making decisions. This would be part of procedure rather than in the policy. Roody will work with staff on this. • Discussion on inclusion of names as options. • There has been a gap historically for marginalized groups to have the opportunity to have their name considered. This policy is more inclusive and provides a chance of acknowledgement for those that never had that chance previously. • To include proper names is the most common way to have people celebrate their communities. • Other options are included in the revised policy. • Discussion on including indigenous language. • It is stated in the policy that the purpose of the policy is as a means of redress and reconciliation. • The steps on the decision making are included in policy. <p>IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT EQUITY AND ANTI-RACISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MOVE THAT THE MUNICIPAL ASSET NAMING AND RENAMING POLICY BE FORWARDED TO THE</p>
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<p>b. Land Acknowledgement discussion</p>	<p>COUNCIL POLICY REVIEW TASKFORCE FOR FURTHER REVIEW BEFORE GOING TO COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL.</p> <p>CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Three land acknowledgments were shared with members:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The current one used by Council.2. ISANS (Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia) Land Acknowledgement3. The one read at this meeting which is a mix of Town's and Acadia's.• Lots of discussion on what the Town's land acknowledgement could look like and what should be included. Comments included:<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ support to include the 400 years recognition of the African NS people.➤ reference to custodians of the land and the keepers and preservers of the land. Consideration in the context of climate change.➤ general context of anti-colonial commitment and something that encompasses indigenous and African NS.➤ A discussion on written copies and if they would be in different languages.➤ Traditionally Land acknowledgements are spoken at beginning of certain events.➤ Invitation to an elder or member of the indigenous community to take part and the appropriateness of that where the Land acknowledgment comes from settler as part of the reconciliation work done as an offering.➤ accompanying an acknowledgment with with a physical gesture e.g. standing to acknowledging
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<p>7. Roundtable</p>	<p>and create space that everyone within themselves can feel a presence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ intersecting dynamics.➤ ‘Nothing about us without us and indigenous representation on the committee. How do we consult that indigenous voice. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thankful we were all able to meet and move some things forward.• Working on exhibition on chapel at Acadia on calls to action for the churches some examples of those actions and tribute to land and indigenous flora and fauna. Open after week of 12th October.• Key points from indigenous stewardship that was enacted last year in federal government will be shared with the group.• Opening and closing prayers are separate and apart from land acknowledgement. Something to consider when Town have events on indigenous lands being put on by non-indigenous persons.• Acknowledge work of committee as an evolution of work not without it’s challenges as we learn to work differently with one another, include others and engage in our community in way that is sometimes unfamiliar and uncomfortable.• Commend Barb Shaw and her passion, to do this work and be uncomfortable.• Wolfville is a leader in this space and while people can be frustrated at not making a big stride we are doing evolutionary not revolutionary and creating a baseline.• The committee should be incredibly proud of what it’s accomplished so far.
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8. Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• December 1 at 4:30pm
9. Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meeting adjourned at 5:50pm.

**Approved at the , 2025, Equity & Anti-Racism Advisory Committee
As recorded by Laura Morrison, Manager of Administration & Town Clerk**

