Beautification Committee Meeting
January 15, 2026
Town Council Chambers

Present
Councillor A. Murray, Chair
Councillor L. MacLellan
E. Chiasson, Community Member
A. Ferguson, Community Member
Councillor P. McKenna

Also Present
M. Fougere, Municipal Clerk and Recording Secretary
S. Long, Director of Community Development

1. Call to Order & Introductions

The Chair, A. Murray, called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. A land acknowledgement was provided, recognizing that the meeting took place on the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people and acknowledging that we are all Treaty people.

2. Approval of Agenda

The following items were added to the agenda.

Item 4.2: New Cairn
Item 5.4: Street signs
Item 5.5: Landscaping at the new crosswalk

Community member, A. Ferguson, raised a concern regarding waste bins being left out throughout the Town. Staff advised that the matter would be referred to the By-Law Department for follow-up.

Motion: To approve the agenda as amended.
Moved by: Councillor McKenna
Seconded by: Councillor MacLellan

Motion carried.

3. Acceptance of the Minutes

3.1 Minutes of the October 16, 2025, Beautification Committee Meeting

The minutes of the October 16, 2025 Beautification Committee meeting were accepted as presented.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

4.1 Mural Announcement

The Chair announced that 14 submissions were received for the 2025 mural, which commemorates the 100th anniversary of the Town Electric Utility. The winning submission was by Qi Cai from Antigonish. The Chair provided the committee with the installation location, which will be on the Highland Eye Care Building located at 9 Main St.

The Chair also noted that the theme for next year's mural will celebrate the 50th anniversary of creative dance.

4.2 Gaelic Panels

Chair, A. Murray, spoke to the committee about the location of the five Gaelic plaques, and Cairn Park was one of the locations suggested and the committee agreed on this.

The Gaelic Signs will be placed in the back along the fence and placed on posts.

4.3 Carin Park

A member of the Boyd family contacted the Chair, A. Murray, regarding the possibility of installing a Boyd cairn in Cairn Park. A. Murray noted that the Special Olympics cairn currently located in the park is not directly related to Cairn Park and suggested that it could potentially be relocated to St. FX or Columbus Field to accommodate the Boyd cairn.

Councillor MacLellan raised the possibility of allocating space within the park for additional cairns in future years and recommended that the Special Olympics cairn not be relocated unless necessary.

It was agreed that the Chair will prepare a site plan for the entire park identifying potential locations for up to ten additional cairns.

Discussion also took place regarding the placement of cairns within Cairn Park. While Council approval is not currently required, the Committee recommended that any future cairns receive Council approval prior to installation.

5. New Business

5.1 Self-Watering Hanging Baskets

Chair presented a sample of a self-watering basket, took a demo in to show the committee. The self-watering system will only stay watered for 3-5 days so not even a full week. A. Murray noted that he was looking at the option of changing the hanging baskets to self-watering. Cost is $180.00 each and would need to purchase stronger arms to go on the buildings if we went this route.

5.2 Main Street Christmas Lights

The Candy Cane decorations along Main Street continue to be well received. Currently, three candy canes are installed on the Centre block between Church and College Streets. The Chair proposed increasing the candy cane lights to cover all five lampposts in the Centre block.

There are currently 16 ribbon lights installed on every second lamp post. To fill in the remaining lamp posts for a full complement, 11 additional ribbon light fixtures would be needed. Councillor MacLellan inquired about when the lights are turned on, and S. Long noted that Christmas lights are installed after Remembrance Day and remain up until January 6. Candy cane lights would remain limited to the centre block, with the remainder as ribbon lights.

The committee discussed installation considerations, and S. Long will review budget implications. A proposal for Council approval will be prepared.

Motion: That Council direct staff to investigate the cost and feasibility of installing thirteen (13) candy cane light decorations on the lamp posts along Main Street, and to compare this option with the installation of eleven (11) additional ribbon decorations.
Moved by: Councillor MacLellan
Seconded by: Community member E. Chaisson

Motion carried.

5.3 Street Signs

The Chair provided background on the street sign located on Main Street above the streetlight, as well as signs at St. Ninian/Highland and West/James Streets. The committee noted that the current signs are too small, particularly with the addition of the second language. If new signs are considered, the font size would be increased.

5.4 Landscaping at our New Crosswalk.

The Chair proposed repurposing the Austrian pines currently located behind Creighton Lane and relocating them to the new crosswalk by Shoppers Drug Mart. Concerns were raised about the height of the trees obstructing visibility. Councillor MacLellan suggested considering wheelchair accessibility when planning tree placement. The committee discussed supporting landscaping initiatives in general but noted caution about planting directly in crosswalk areas.

It was noted that the Garden Club inquired whether the Town would support a garden near the cemetery by the John Paul Centre. The Chair advised to consult with the St. Ninian Pioneer group.

5.5 Beautification Strategic Plan Review

The Chair noted that the most recent Beautification Strategic Plan covers up to 2017, with an earlier plan from 2009–2013 also available. The committee discussed reviewing the six strategic directions, potentially selecting two categories per meeting for discussion. Some areas are considered redundant, while others remain relevant. The committee agreed to review the plan in full at the next meeting.

Next Meeting will be held on February 12.

6. Adjournment

With no further business, Councillor MacLellan moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m.