Beautification Committee Meeting
March 23, 2026
Town Council Chambers

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

Also Present
M. Fougere, Municipal Clerk and Recording Secretary
K. MacInnis, Director of Community Development
C. Rankin, Manager Parks and Recreation

1. Call to Order & Introductions

The Chair, A. Murray, called the meeting to order at 5:14 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

The Chair proposed moving item 4.2 (Flower Selection) to item 4.1 in order to be considered prior to the Strategic Plan Review.
Motion: To approve the agenda as amended.
Moved by: A. Ferguson
Seconded by: Councillor McKenna

Motion carried.

3. Acceptance of the Minutes

3.1 Minutes of the January 15, 2026, Beautification Committee Meeting

The minutes of the January 15, 2026, Beautification Committee meeting were accepted as presented.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

4.1 Flower Selection 2026

Mr. Murray reviewed flower arrangements from previous years and circulated options to the Committee.
The Committee reached a general consensus to proceed with a multicolour theme.

4.2 Beautification Strategic Plan Review

The Committee reviewed the Beautification Strategic Plan and identified areas for update. It was noted that the document will remain a living document.

Councillor McKenna expressed support for the six priority areas and recommended alignment with the Town's Strategic Plan. It was further noted that the Mayor's message requires revision.

During discussion, the Committee emphasized the importance of updating the Plan to reflect achievable priorities for the upcoming four-year period, including the removal of completed or impractical actions.

The Committee reviewed the document in detail and will continue its review at future meetings.

Green Stability
- No changes were identified.

Goals and Initiatives
Green Transportation
- Support community active transportation initiatives.

Park Development
- Review Park amenities, including seating and picnic capacity.
- Continue installation of benches and garbage receptacles.
- Explore seasonal seating opportunities.
- Enhance green spaces through planters, murals, decorative lighting, flags, and banners.
- Install a new cairn at Cairn Park.

Trail Development
- Develop a walking trail connecting Wright's River to the Landing Trail.
- Advance Active Transportation Trail development.
- Install interpretive signage along the Landing Trail.
- Explore future trail connections between regional and local schools.

During discussion, members also:
- Recommended a review of overall seating capacity in parks.
- Discussed maintenance and beautification opportunities in downtown areas, including locations near Piper's Pub.
- Discussed the need for additional garbage receptacles at the Landing and potential partnership opportunities with the Province.
- Discussed potential locations for a "Welcome to Antigonish" sign.
- Discussed opportunities for community partnerships and capacity-building initiatives, including a potential community garden.

Economic Expansion / Town Involvement
- Improve coordination between committees and Town planning efforts.
- Encourage additional outdoor café spaces.
- Support beautification initiatives at key entrances to the Town.
- Review downtown exterior standards.
- Explore opportunities for community digital boards.

Strategic Partnerships
- Explore funding opportunities for public art.
- Continue work toward establishing a community garden location.

Staff will incorporate the Committee's feedback into a revised draft of the Beautification Strategic Plan for continued review at a future meeting.

5. Adjournment

With no further business, Councillor McKenna moved for adjournment at 6:44 p.m.