Minutes of the EDIT Meeting of 3/12/26 on the Zoom Platform

Present: Jonathan Tropp, Chairman; Challa Flemming, Co-Chair; David Rosenburg, Samantha Miller, Rodney Gray, Chris Powell
Absent: Rick Bolton
Also Present: James Cordone, Town of Trumbull Attorney; Chief of Police Michael Lombardo; Paul Brown, Town of Trumbull Technology; Jennifer Winschell, Town Council Liaison; Joanne Glasser Orenstein, Clerk

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Tropp at 7:36pm. Mr. Tropp asked for a moment of reflection for those in the Armed Forces.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Roll Call completed.

There was no correspondence.

No comment from the public.

Ms. Flemming made a motion to approve the February minutes; Ms. Miller seconded. VOTE: All in favor.

Mr. Tropp introduced Trumbull Chief of Police Michael Lombardo.
Chief Lombardo expressed his appreciation for the opportunity. The department has placed a strong emphasis on gaining trust in the community. They are running a lot of programs to build relationships, including Coffee with a Cop, Cone with a Cop, and Walks and Talks. The School Resource Officers also play a big part in relationship building. They hired a full-time social worker and started a wellness dog program.

They had officers trained in de-escalation. Their goal is to treat people fairly and professionally. The department is more diverse than ever. Chief Lombardo has served as a panelist in several programs, including the forum Mr. Gray helped organize at the Bridgeport Islamic Center.

Chief Lombardo is proud there has never been a sustained complaint of racial profiling in his 11 years as Chief.

The Citizens' Academy has been a goal for about 5 years; there is now sufficient staff to run it. Chief Lombardo said there are now 79 officers, including 10 who are Hispanic, 4 who are Black, and 10 women, and there are multiple officers who speak several languages. HR has been working with the Department to reach a much larger and much more diverse pool of applicants.

Old Business

Mr. Tropp reported progress has been made on the survey. Cindy Katske is liaising with EDIT and will assist with distribution.

Book Club: Mr. Tropp reported Monday, June 29th and Monday, October 5th (Banned Book Week) are the selected dates for the next two Book Club meetings. After discussion, “Bias” was chosen for June and “Good Talk” for October.

Future Meeting Guests
Mr. Tropp reported Collin Basset of EMS will attend in April, Rina Bakalar will attend in May, and the Library will have a panel of guests in October.

New Business
Mr. Gray met with Community Leader Donna Jolly. The Community Justice Network includes 15 towns. Mr. Gray is trying to arrange for her to attend an EDIT meeting.

Mr. Gray also will be attending a Brave Space Conversation in Middletown, exploring what it means to be a White ally. He will report back.

Ms. Flemming made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Rosenberg seconded. VOTE: All in favor at 8:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Glasser Orenstein
March 15, 2026.