Minutes of the EDIT Meeting of October 8, 2026
On the Zoom Platform

Present: Jonathan Tropp, Chair; David Rosenburg, Rodney Gray, Samantha Miller, Rick Bolton
Absent: Challa Flemming, Chris Powell
Also Present: James Cordone, Town of Trumbull Attorney, Jennifer Winschel, Town Council Liaison; Stefan Lyhne-Nielsen and Kathleen Fieffe, Trumbull Library System; Joanne Glasser Orenstein, Clerk

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Tropp at 7:32pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Roll Call was completed.

There was no correspondence.

No Public Comment.

Ms. Miller made a motion to approve the September 10, 2026 minutes, Mr. Rosenburg seconded. VOTE: Mr. Bolton abstained, everyone else in favor.

Old Business

Survey
Mr. Tropp reported that he has been in touch with town administration, but the survey release has not moved forward yet.

Book Club
The most recent book club meeting was October 5, and the book was “Good Talk” by Mira Jacob. There were fewer regulars in attendance but two new people. The Library received an email from a couple who commented that book clubs typically choose their own books, but EDIT does the picking. They also expressed their opinion that the books selected have been liberal leaning. They suggested two books: “Why Liberalism Failed” by Patrick Deneen and “The Great Divide: Why Liberals and Conservatives Will Never Agree” by William D. Gairdner. Mr. Tropp suggested the idea of “Hillbilly Elegy” by JD Vance.

Ms. Fieffe leads the book club. She also runs the adult non-fiction book club at the Library and she chooses all the books for that club, but that doesn’t mean the readers don’t have a voice. She’s not sure how productive it would be to have the attendees choose and expressed the importance of the EDIT Book Club choices representing the mission of the task force.

Mr. Tropp thanked Mr. Lynne-Nielsen and Ms. Fieffe for coming. Mr. Lynne-Nielsen said the challenge for the Library is serving the whole community. He said Ms. Fieffe is an awesome librarian and she and the other librarians make Trumbull’s many book clubs happen. EDIT has done well to pick the books that make the discussions happen to meet their objectives.

The Library's goal is literacy: getting people to read. They want something for everyone, as the programming goal is to get people in the doors. The goal of programming is educating and bringing people together, to get more of Trumbull to come in.

Ms. Fieffe has been at the Library for seven years. There has to be a balance in all programming. Budget and availability are concerns. She listens to the feedback of regular patrons.

After discussion, the committee did not think the method of choosing books should change. The committee selected Monday, February 1, 2027 for the next book club meeting. A book will be selected next month. Ms. Fieffe suggested "Educated" by Tara Westover and promised to send a list of other possibilities.

New Business:

2027 Calendar

For 2027, all meetings will be the second Thursday of the month, except that, for November, the meeting will be on the third Thursday because the second Thursday is Veterans Day, when Town Hall will be closed.
2027 dates are: January 14, February 11, March 11, April 8, May 13, June 10, July 8, August 12, September 9, October 14, November 18, and December 9. The June and September meetings will be in person at Town Hall, with Zoom coverage as well, and all others will be Zoom-only. Mr. Bolton made the motion to accept the calendar and Mr. Rosenburg seconded. VOTE: All in Favor.

Open Discussion of Challenges and Opportunities for EDIT
Mr. Tropp and Mr. Rosenburg plan to step down from EDIT at the end of their current terms. Mr. Tropp encouraged discussion of how EDIT may best serve the town going forward. There are incidents where people feel "othered," but they don't come to EDIT. Mr. Tropp expressed pride in the work that's been done, including the town's adoption of a Value Statement and town leadership's participation in anti-bias training. While the survey may be useful to provide direction, Mr. Tropp encouraged further consideration of future strategy and plans.

Ms. Miller questioned the extent to which EDIT's path forward is open or impeded. Mr. Tropp said that, with the notable exception of the lack of budget, EDIT had never encountered a roadblock from the town administration or Town Council, notwithstanding some delays, e.g., during budget and election seasons.

Adjournment: Mr. Rosenburg made a motion and Mr. Bolton seconded. VOTE: All in favor at 8:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Glasser Orenstein, Clerk
October 12, 2026