

Minutes

Easton Diversity & Inclusion Task Force (EDIT)

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, February 2, 2023

7:30 p.m. in the Easton Library Community Room

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6707660159>

Order of Meeting

- 1) Call to Order – 7:33pm
- 2) Roll Call
 - a) Present: Darrell Harris (co-chair), Hilary Desmond, Paco Acosta, Jonny Halloran, Michael Cordover, Whendi Cook Broderick (co-chair) (arrived 7:46pm)
 - b) Apologies: Elizabeth Katz
- 3) Approval of Minutes for January 5, 2023
 - a) Corrections:
 - i) Item 3 – change “December 1, 2022” to “December 1, 2023”.
 - ii) Item 5(a) – should read:

Whendi noted the tragic passing of Connecticut State Representative Quentin “Q” Williams in an automobile accident on the way home from opening day of the State Legislature where he had been sworn in for his third term. Representative Williams leaves a vital legacy and will be dearly missed.
 - iii) Item 8(d) – change “Christ Church” to “other organizations promoting diversity and inclusion”.

- b) **Moved** by Paco that the minutes as corrected be approved.

Seconded by Johnny, passed unanimously.

4) Public Comment

- a) There was no public comment received.
- b) **Action:** Darrell will ensure the EDIT page on the Easton website is updated to include the public comment email address.

5) Board Member Comment

- a) Hillary suggested cosponsoring an event with the Triangle Community Center on how to be a good ally, after attending a training session run by TCC on that topic. Could be remote or hybrid, maybe in August (not June, because TCC will be busy).
 - i) **Action:** Whendi will reach out to the library informally about hosting.
 - ii) **Action:** Hilary will reach out to TCC about possible dates.
- b) Whendi noted that AP has a new style guide on inclusive storytelling.
- c) Whendi will be meeting with the library tomorrow around neurodiversity celebration, 3/13-3/19 this year. Possible activities were discussed, including an art show, education about types of neurodiversity, a community art project, screening a film (for children or all ages), reading children's books, sensory activities, or community games to develop empathy. It would also be powerful to have a neurodiverse person contribute and discuss their experiences.
- d) *(taken after 7(d))* Darrell and Whendi shared the blue and green envelopes from Police, for Autistic and Deaf/hard of hearing individuals respectively.

6) *(number not used in agenda)*

7) Discussion and Possible Action:

- a) Resignation of Kevin Oliver and subsequent vacancy
 - i) Kevin is moving away from Easton, so has submitted his resignation to Board of Selectmen. As a result, one alternate of EDIT is to be made a full member; process involves submitting a letter to BOS. Next BOS meeting is 2/16.

ii) Composition – there should be no more than three of any party. Democrat, Independent, Republican. There are no limit to the number of unaffiliated members, because it's not a party.

iii) **Moved** by Whendi that EDIT is to submit to the Board of Selectmen in time for their next meeting 2/16 the name of Michael Cordover to elevate them from alternate to full membership.

Seconded by Hilary. Passed unanimously.

Action: Whendi will draft the letter and send it to Darrell for submission to the BOS. The letter will note that Michael's pronouns are they/them.

iv) **Moved** by Hilary that Michael be elevated to full membership of EDIT for the duration of this meeting.

Seconded by Darrell. Passed unanimously.

v) **Moved** by Darrell that EDIT thank Kevin Oliver for his service.

Seconded by Whendi. Passed unanimously.

b) *(covered in 7(a))*

c) Appointment of EDIT Secretary

i) Michael volunteered, subject to their appointment as a full member of EDIT.

ii) Matter deferred to March meeting.

d) Events and Activities – the Lost Tribe, Racial Justice Film Series, Neurodiversity

i) Lost Tribe is next Thursday at Easton Library, 4:30 – 5:15pm. Many EDIT members will be in attendance.

ii) Racial Justice Film Series starting with 13 on that same Thursday. Just a warning, potentially very powerful/graphic.

iii) Neurodiversity week covered in 5(c).

iv) Thursday 6/1 pride flag raising 5:30? – 7:30, planning is happening for that. EDIT June meeting is 6/8 to accommodate.

- v) Whendi would like to partner with someone for a Juneteenth event. Last year was Concerts on the Hill at Christ Church. Maybe joining with nearby communities, or something local; something celebratory, though could also engage more critically.

e) Subcommittee reports – Programs, Communications

i) Programs

- (1) We're now on the Local Links page on Easton Library webpage.

Action: Jonny will talk to Debbie (town clerk) about adding more content to the eastonct.gov EDIT page.

- (2) Jonny put together a postcard to promote EDIT activities.

- (3) We need a shared space to save these documents. Jonny will set up an appropriate Google Drive location.

Action: Michael will investigate Slack and Notion.

- (4) Jonny updated the Google Calendar to include descriptions of all events.

ii) Communications

- (1) Subcommittee not established at last meeting, but seems relevant given discussion above, and Paco's communications with Easton Neighbors.

- (2) **Moved** by Darrell: that EDIT communications subcommittee be established whose purpose is to facilitate communications between EDIT and the community using technological means.

Seconded by Jonny. Passed unanimously.

- (3) Rev Allie is putting out a press release about the film series. Other comms methods: Facebook groups, town website, Easton Courier, First Selectman's weekly message, state reps' (Anne Huges & Tony Scott) email lists. Should maybe develop a standard plan for communicating about events.

- (4) **Moved** by Jonny that the membership of the communications subcommittee consist of Jonny.

Seconded by Whendi. Passed unanimously.

8) Other business

- a) Paco has been in touch with Easton Neighbors magazine about featuring EDIT. They have submitted a questionnaire for us to fill out.

Action: Darrell & Whendi will provide input for the questionnaire.

Action: Paco will coordinate the answers and circulate for approval or for discussion at the next meeting.

- 9) **Moved** by Hilary that we adjourn.

Seconded by Darrell. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 8:58pm.