



**BETHEL PUBLIC LIBRARY**

189 Greenwood Avenue, Bethel, CT 06801  
203-794-8756 Fax 203-794-8761  
[www.bethellibrary.org](http://www.bethellibrary.org)

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING**

**Executive Committee**

of the Board of Directors of the Bethel Public Library

Wednesday, July 27, 2016

6:00 p.m.

Morse Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

189 Greenwood Avenue, Bethel, CT 06801

**PRESENT:** Lisa Johnson – Vice Chair; Robin Kahn – Secretary; Tia Murphy – Treasurer; Ted Stevenson – Board Chairman; Library Director Lynn Rosato.

**VISITORS:** Library Staff members Susan Anderson and Kate Sobolova.

**CALL TO ORDER:** T. Stevenson called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:** Tia Murphy moved to accept the minutes as submitted from the previous meeting on October 21, 2015; L. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed with two abstentions: Robin Kahn and Ted Stevenson.

**PATRON CONCERN:** Susan Anderson shared with the Committee her experience with Bethel Advocate reporter Paula Antolini at the recent Legislative Town Hall program, observing that Ms. Antolini interrupted her opening welcome to the audience by challenging the Photographing and Videotaping Release forms that had been distributed before the beginning of the program. Ms. Anderson asserted that Ms. Antolini exhibited what Ms. Anderson considered to be threatening behavior regarding the Library's use of the forms. At the end of the program, Ms. Anderson stated that Ms. Antolini approached her again in an intimidating manner regarding the forms.

Kate Sobolova commented on Ms. Antolini's behavior at previous Legislative Town Hall programs, noting that Ms. Antolini had exhibited behavior that Ms. Soboleva considered to be confrontational, threatening legal action upon seeing the release forms.

Tia Murphy, who had been in attendance at an earlier Legislative Town Hall program, reported that Ms. Antolini had stood in the fire aisles, blocking them, and Ms. Antolini asserted that she would not abide by the Library's rules.

Kate Soboleva and Susan Anderson left the meeting at around 6:25 pm.

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Director Rosato distributed an article from the American Library Association that discussed reasons for using photo release documents.

Extensive discussion ensued, with several Committee members expressing the view that the Library was not responsible for the actions of a third party attending or reporting on a public program held in the Library's facilities.

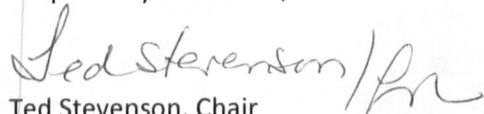
Director Rosato proposed that instead of using the paper release form at public programs a blanket disclaimer be incorporated into the on-line registration form, with language to be taken from the current form. Committee members agreed unanimously.

Discussion moved on to the letter Ms. Rosato had sent Ms. Antolini following the recent Legislative Town Hall program. The letter focused on Ms. Antolini's behavior at that program. The letter served as a warning to Ms. Antolini that disruptive behavior at future Library programs or events could result in a temporary suspension of Ms. Antolini's Library privileges.

Lengthy discussion ensued, at the end of which, Director Rosato proposed establishment of a "Media Relations" policy – which was positively received by Committee members. Language regarding photographing or videotaping in the Library also will be inserted into the Patron Behavior Policy. Ms. Rosato will meet with the Policy Committee to craft a separate Media Relations document.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Robin Kahn moved to adjourn; Tia Murphy seconded. Motion passed unanimously. T. Stevenson adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ted Stevenson". To the right of the signature is a vertical line that extends downwards, ending in a small flourish.

Ted Stevenson, Chair  
Bethel Library Board of Directors