

Coe Memorial Park Committee

Minutes

October 17, 2012

Mission Statement

To create within the downtown area of Torrington a first class horticultural oasis in accordance with and strict adherence to the Coe Godfrey benefactors and the Coe Family Trust.

Present: Coe Memorial Park Members: Chairman Susan Coe Holbrook, Dr Isadore Temkin, Lori Chiron, Mary Zbell, Marc Trivella and Margaret Keywan

Others attending: Nancy Holbrook and Frank Pennington

Absent: Mark McEachern

Chairman Susan Coe Holbrook opened the meeting at 5:04 PM

A Motion was made by Lori Chiron to accept the minutes of the September 19, 2012. This was seconded by Marc Trivella and passed unanimously.

A discussion regarding the deep tire tracks in the lawn traveling to the electrical work being done upon the new holiday tree followed. It was stated that some of the heavy construction equipment used could have been brought in partially by sidewalk rather than over all of the lawn area thereby creating deep tracks in the lawn. Margaret Keywan stated that while working for her former employer that all contractors were liable to restore surfaces to their former status

A Motion by Marc Trivella for Superintendent Brett Simmons to investigate and enforce damage liability of the construction companies involved in this production. These damages should not be the financial responsibility of the Parks Department or the Coe Trust. The motion was seconded by Margaret Keywan and passed unanimously.

Public Comments: Frank Pennington wanted to make sure that all the holiday lights worked properly prior to the lighting event. In the past this was not the case.

A Motion was made by Mary Zbell to leave the old holiday tree standing as a back-up tree as there appears to be the potential of problems with the new tree. The motion was seconded by Lori Chiron and passed unanimously.

Chairman Susan Coe Holbrook noted that on the Horticultural tour, she and Margaret Keywan spoke to Mike Zaharek regarding the beech tree. Mike stated that the tree at this point was responding well to treatment but was still in a precarious condition. Chairman Holbrook related that the disease was airborne and the beeches at the Torrington Library posed a potential problem to all beech trees in the area. It was recommended by Dr. Isadore Temkin that we contact Mr. Donnelly at UConn and then speak to Joe Gelormino in this regard. Mary Zbell offered to make 'first contact'.

Park Operations: Superintendent Report

- **Master Plan:**
 - October 10 2012 Planning and zoning approved renovations of Coe Memorial Park Phase II
 - Fuss & O’Neill finalizing bids
- **Zaharek Landscaping**
 - Work completed
- **Still River Gardens**
 - Completed reports & billing statements
- **Civic Center**
 - Maintenance On Going
- **Grounds**
 - Maintenance

The matter of Fuss & O’Neill was discussed with regard to where we stand on their contract. It was clarified (that after the last meeting wherein the firm received the additional payment), the last ‘extra’ payment to the firm was to cover their work “through the bid process”. It was further discussed that we should start thinking about whether or not we are going to consider Fuss & O’Neill to serve as “clerk of the works” and/or administrator of the construction. This will be discussed at future meetings.

Once again the subject of unequal treatment and inconsistency of Civic Center rents was discussed. For example it was noted that DMR pressured the Park & Recreation Commissioners to make their monthly dances a Park & Recreation event. The Commission concurred. However, it is noted that the budget for this State department includes a sum for such events which makes the City a sponsor of a State event. Members questioned the propriety of such a procedure.

A Motion was made by Margaret Keywan for the reimbursement of the 11 Mity-Lite Tables that should be included in the 2013-2014 Park & Recreation Budget. The gravity of this matter apparently is overlooked by the Commission despite Probate Judge Blick’s previous ruling. The Motion was seconded by Mary Zbell and passed unanimously. **THIS MOTION WILL BE A PERMANENT MOTION ON THE COE MEMORIAL PARK COMMITTEE’S AGENDA UNTIL REIMBURSEMENT IS OBTAINED.**

Chairman Holbrook reported that there is some vandalism to the main monument. In New Britain vandals have successfully managed to remove several bronze plaques. Speaking with Bud at the Veteran’s Office, Chairman Holbrook requested that some Veterans just walk through the area, not confronting those there but just being a presence. He will reply in kind. Chairman Holbrook related that replacement of such items is extremely costly and not a budget item. If damage should occur, a plan for Replacement should be discussed between the Committee and the Veterans.

A Motion was made by Marc Trivella to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m. seconded by Lori Chiron and passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be held on November 21, 2012, at 5:00 p.m. at the Civic Center

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret K Keywan
Recording Secretary