

Coe Memorial Park Committee

Minutes

September 18, 2013

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.*

Chairman Susan Coe Holbrook opened the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

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

Absent: Mark McEachern

Also Attending: Frank Pennington and Aurora Daley

A Motion was made by Lori Chiron to accept the minutes of the August 21, 2013 meeting. This was seconded by Mary Zbell and passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments: Aurora Daley, a nearby resident, asked several questions in regard to Coe Memorial Park and all were answered by all Committee members.

Park Operations: * *No report was submitted to the Coe Memorial Park Committee by Superintendent Brett Simmons*

A Motion was made by Margaret Keywan to have the Coe Memorial Park Committee included in the budget process as directed by the Judge of Probate (which is consistently ignored). This was seconded by Mary Zbell and passed unanimously.

A Motion was made by Dr. Temkin to have the Coe Memorial Park Committee involved in the development of the new gardening contract. This Motion was seconded by Marc Trivella and passed unanimously.

A discussion regarding sending a member to attend the next Park & Recreation meeting followed regarding the security breach that occurred on August 19, 2013. No information was given to the Coe Memorial Park Committee regarding those departments or people having keys to the building, i.e. Police & Fire departments, Education Connection, Bill Nataro, employees, etc. Further information regarding the breach may be obtained by contacting the Torrington Police Department as heard on the scanner.

And also discussed would be the tree selection replacement for the Park, as previously, Mike Zaharek stated that he would get back to the Coe Memorial Park Committee after his research. The Committee feels that the trees are the very foundation of the Park and careful appropriate choices should be made by resident Committee members.

Chairman Susan Coe Holbrook appointed Marc Trivella to attend the meeting and speak on our behalf.

A recommendation from Chairman Holbrook to make Frank Pennington an ex-officio member was presented to the committee. A unanimous vote made this possible.

The Coe Memorial Park Committee discussed future plantings in Coe Memorial Park. Chairman Holbrook appointed Margaret Keywan to invite Lori Stickney to our next meeting.

Marc Trivella and Mark McEachern are gathering information regarding the Carriage House. Restorative woodworkers & paint information is also being researched by Marc Trivella & Mark McEachern.

It is noted that contrary to the recommendation of the architect and the Coe Memorial Park Committee, FALL PLANTNG is taking place in Phase II. The Coe Memorial Park Committee opposes this procedure for fear of disturbing the roots of the newly planted trees and shrubs and subscribes to an expert's opinion. Any disturbances challenging those plantings would void the guarantee by the construction company.

Marc Trivella suggested that we meet the Mayoral candidates and speak to them about the history, traditions, and the vision of the Coe Memorial Park Committee. Both candidates were invited to speak with the Committee. Chairman Susan Coe Holbrook appointed Secretary Margaret Keywan to make the calls and report back.

Permanent Motion: Margaret Keywan made once again the motion that the amount of \$11,680.87 is to be reimbursed to the Coe Godfrey Trust. To date the reconciliation by the Parks and Recreation Commission has **NOT** been accepted by the Coe Memorial Park Committee .On-going meetings with the Trustee and the City Treasurer continue toward resolution prior to the Probate hearing.The five year plan is unacceptable. If no resolution is found the Judge of Probate will rule; the Motion was seconded by Lori Chiron and passed unanimously.

Permanent Motion: Margaret Keywan, for the Park & Recreation Commission to reimburse the Coe Trust fund for 11 unaccounted Mity-Lite tables purchased with Coe money entrusted to the Parks & Recreation Department. This shall remain a permanent motion until the situation is rectified or the Probate Judge renders a decision. The Motion was seconded by Lori Chiron and passed unanimously. Previous statements regarding insufficient funds are unacceptable.

A Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:31 p.m. was made by Lori Chiron and seconded by Marc Trivella.

The next meeting will be held at the Civic Center on October 16, 2013 at 5 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret K Keywan
Secretary