

Coe Memorial Park Committee

Minutes

October 16, 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 called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Present : Committee Chairman Susan Coe Holbrook, Mary Zbell, Dr Isadore Temkin, Lori Chiron, Mark McEachern, Marc Trivella, ex-officio member Frank Pennington ,and Margaret Keywan

Also Attending: Nancy Holbrook, Lorie Stickney of Still River Gardens & Superintendent Brett Simmons

A Motion was made by Lori Chiron to accept the minutes of the September 18,2013 meeting .This was seconded by Mark McEachern and passed unanimously.

A Motion was made by Lori Chiron and seconded by Mark McEachern to accept the minutes of the September 21,2013 Special Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments: Lori Stickney of Still River Gardens graciously accepted the invitation to speak to the Coe Memorial Park Committee. Superintendent Brett Simmons notified the committee that he would also attend.

Discussions regarding plant materials and design ensued. The Committee complimented Lori on the linking color usage in the Fall park scheme and expressed the desire that continual color coordination in the Victorian theme in all parts of the park be carried out in the 2014 Spring-Summer format.

Lori inquired as to the possibility of a plant sale that she and Jeremy would pot up plants and sell them for the park. The consensus of the Coe Memorial Park Committee members was that this would be a violation of the 2008 decree and therefore negate it, there is not great need for money (i.e. Glebe House).After the time involved, labeling & promotional expenditures, the profit would be minimal, therefore the committee decided against sales.

A Victorian ornament of sorts was discussed for the former rain garden area of Phase II. Marc Trivella stated that was a firm in Middletown (Irreplaceable Artifacts,428 Main St) that specialized in such ornamentation as was Stamford House Wrecking. Nancy Holbrook and Susan Coe Holbrook recalled a cupid in the garden and shall search for family pictures and report.

At some future date it was agreed that another informational meeting would be held with Still River Gardens. A date shall be mutually agreed upon.

Park Operations

Phase II completed

Zaharek work to be scheduled

Gardens Mums planted

Maintenance on-going

Contract draft awaits finalization

Grounds Maintenance on-going

Superintendent Brett Simmons inquired as to decision regarding the purchase of LED lights for an additional **\$2500+**. Chairman Holbrook noted that in 2012 +**\$2500** had been spent on LED lights. After a brief discussion as to the cost effectiveness of this expenditure:

A Motion was made by Margaret Keywan and seconded by Mary Zbell to table this matter until January 2014. The motion passed unanimously.

Mark McEachern announced that the Torrington Historical Society will present a program on Coe Memorial Park on October 26 at the Society Carriage House. There is no charge for admission; however seats will not be reserved.

Chairman Susan Coe Holbrook related that the current minutes for the Park & Recreation Commission do not state the charges for the Civic Center usage. Particularly of interest was the piggyback rental by the American Red Cross with the M4M event. M4M does not usually use the building and therefore there is not a charge for janitorial services, however the American Red Cross blood drive does use the building. There was no mention of these charges or any other service fees in the minutes of the commission.

Once again she reminded that Judge Diane Blick in the 2008 decree stated that the Coe Memorial Park Committee should be involved in the day to day operations of Coe Memorial Park. This means rentals as well as budget functions, plantings etc. This decree seems to be ignored of late.

The Chairman presented a draft copy of a new sign replacing the “Camp Workcoeman” sign will be sent to Writeway for a mock-up.

To date there is no notification as to when Mike Zaharek will report on the trees. Damage to the new Hickory tree and the rounds of the trees by mowing was discussed in depth. The trees are only to be cared for (pruned, clipped etc) by the professional Mike Zaharek **not** park & recreation employees. The Coe Memorial Park Committee will await Mike’s report.

Permanent Motion:

Margaret Keywan once again made the motion that the amount of \$11,680.67 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.** To date Meetings between the Trustee and the City Treasurer have not yielded a resolution prior to the Probate hearing. **The five year plan is unacceptable** if a resolution is not forthcoming, the Judge shall rule. The motion was seconded by Lori Chiron and passed unanimously.

Permanent Motion:

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

A Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:23 p.m. was made by Mary Zbell and seconded by Marc Trivella and passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be held at 5p.m. at the Civic Center on November 20,2013

Respectfully Submitted
Margaret K Keywan
Secretary