

Minutes
Coe Memorial Park Subcommittee
May 6, 2009

Mission Statement

To create within the downtown area of Torrington a first class horticultural oasis in accordance with & strict adherence to the Intent of the Coe Godfrey benefactors and the Coe family trust

Present

Parks & Recreation Superintendent J. Brett Simmons
Parks & Recreation Chairperson Patricia Fairchild
Parks & Recreation Commissioner Jim Pescatore
Coe Memorial Park Subcommittee Members: Susan Coe Holbrook, Margaret Keywan, Frank Pennington, Dr. Isadore Temkin, Marc Trivella, Mary Zbell

Absent

Coe Memorial Park Subcommittee Member Emeritus Robert Driscoll

Prior to the meeting, a walk thru at Coe Memorial Park took place with Still River Gardens. Lori & Jeremy Stickney and Elizabeth Zeller walked the group thru and explained their planting schedule for the forthcoming season. The Subcommittee members expressed that the daffodils needed deadheading.

Also pointed out was the devastation caused in the fall closing by Renaissance Farms. Most of the sublata phlox in the Main Street garden had been torn up; contrary to directives, the roses had been pruned and the perennial mums had been torn up. Most beds lacked the proper compost and spruce boughs that was stated in their contract. However, due to lack of oversight, the contractor was paid in full.

This leaves Still River Gardens at a disadvantage, as these spaces must be filled. Colors and textures were discussed. Plantings should take place in a few weeks

Patricia Fairchild opened the meeting at 5:20 pm.

A motion was made by Susan Coe Holbrook and seconded by Mary Zbell to accept the minutes of the April 8, 2009 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Park & Recreation Superintendent J. Brett Simmons distributed the following:

- The monthly agenda for Coe Memorial Park Civic Center
- An updated roster of the Coe Memorial Park Subcommittee
- The budget performance report
- Godfrey Trust Income summary report from Jerry Rollett

On Monday, May 11 there will be a city budget meeting of all departments at the Sullivan Senior Center.

Artistic Irrigation has turned on the system and will return to adjust the Civil War monument area. In June, the regular adjustment will take place.

The fountain is turned off as the circuit breaker keeps tripping. The Water Pollution Control Authority is servicing the fountain.

Susan Coe Holbrook inquired if it was the pump again and why there was not a screen in place upon the grate that was installed by the previous superintendent? Superintendent Simmons will research the matter.

Margaret Keywan noted that the lights in the park remained on past daylight and long before sunset. Lights were not even in sync with the street lights. Why cannot this be handled in an appropriate fashion she inquired? Superintendent Simmons will rectify the situation.

Frank Pennington asked again as to the wiring on the lights repaired by Kennedy Electric but Superintendent Simmons did not obtain that information, but will do so prior to the next meeting. He also requested that Superintendent Simmons look at the stones on the Vietnam fountain as they should be cleaned and sealed. The superintendent will investigate.

Mary Zbell asked if any report has been received from the Urban Forestry Coordinator Chris Donnelly regarding the copper beech tree. Superintendent Simmons related that tests were inconclusive and more would be done. In the meantime, he was going to call Mike Zaharek.

Susan Coe Holbrook noted that the Civic Center calendars were incomplete and fees no longer must be waived for janitorial services. She noted several instances that she had researched in which the janitorial fees were waived.

Dr. Isadore Temkin made a motion not to waive fees for the redevelopment agency that is using the center on May 20 for a public meeting as the agency was funded by a grant and was a private agency. The motion was seconded by Mary Zbell and passed unanimously.

Aurora Daley of the Torrington Arts & Culture Commission invited all to a June 13, 2009 Connecticut Open House Day 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. There will be a tour of Coe Memorial Park given by Lori Stickney of Still River Gardens.

A motion to adjourn was made by Marc Trivella and seconded by Mary Zbell. The motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be held June 3, 2009 at 5:15 pm at the armory.

Respectfully Submitted

Margaret K Keywan

Recording Secretary