

Minutes

October 19, 2011

Coe Memorial Park Committee

Mission Statement

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

Present

Coe Memorial Park Committee Members: Chairman Frank Pennington, Susan Holbrook, Margaret Keywan, Mark McEachern, Dr. Isadore Temkin, Mark Trivella (arrived 5:15 p.m.), Mary Zbell

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

A Motion was made by Mary Zbell and seconded by Margaret Keywan to accept the minutes of the September 21, 2011, meeting. It passed unanimously.

The Coe Memorial Park Committee Members reviewed the Park & Recreation Commission responses to the previous month's motions.

Park Operations

1. **Master Plan:** Proposal from Fuss & O'Neill in the amount of \$37,500 was presented to the City Council on October 17, 2011.
2. **Tree Work:** Mike Zaharek is working on selecting a tri-color beech tree for the ivy glen. The maple tree stump will be removed & the new tree planted this fall.
3. **Gardens:** Still River Spring/Summer receipts were distributed. Mums and Bulb receipts to be forthcoming. Ivy Glen to be re-designed starting October 17, 2011. Maintenance continues
4. **Civic Center:** General maintenance
5. **Grounds:** General Maintenance
6. Irrigation shut down scheduled for October 21, 2011 by Artistic Irrigation

The Committee reviewed the report on the Special meeting to discuss the ivy glen and tree replacement held October 6, 2011 with the Park & Recreation Commission, The Coe Memorial Park Committee and The Horticultural Review Committee.

The Committee reviewed the report from the special joint meeting October 7, 2011 with the Park & Recreation Commission and the Coe Memorial Park Committee regarding the latest proposal by Fuss & O'Neill.

Susan Coe Holbrook reported that according to the print outs received, the rental income for the Civic Center this year (7/2010 to 6/30/2011) was \$2,413.50. Mary Zbell noted that this meant only a few events paid and it should be run as a business. The building should be self-sustaining. The approximate \$50,000 in operational costs must be defrayed in our budget as the **TRUST** can no longer bear this cost entirely. Bartering by the Park & Recreation Commission and deferments or waivers of hourly janitorial fees must cease or have the City pay these costs. Dr. Isadore Temkin stated that a decision in the near future must be made on this subject as the drawing down of the capital fund cannot continue.

Chris Donnelly of UConn Forestry called Susan Coe Holbrook several weeks ago and related that organizers of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association had been to Coe Memorial Park and thought that it was an ideal venue to hold their annual tree climbing competition. The Association of tree experts has their own liability insurance and

the event is usually held some time in May. This competition previously has been held only in the Southern part of the state. Coe Memorial Park Committee members discussed this and decided that this would attract people to the downtown area of Torrington and fully supports an event of this nature.

A MOTION was made by Margaret Keywan and seconded by Marc Trivella to obtain more information on the event. The motion passed unanimously.

A person contacted Susan Coe Holbrook regarding the planting of a tree by the Torrington Ladies Club (now the Torrington Woman's Club) around 1907 or 1908. Members of that group think that the tree has been identified and would like to have some sort of ceremony. Ms Coe Holbrook will research in newspapers the event and report back with further information.

Budget 2011-2012, Park Signage, and Photos: A discussion was held regarding the sign for the Park. **A Motion** by Marc Trivella and seconded by Mary Zbell recommended that Marc research the possibility of a substantial (granite) sign appropriate for the area acknowledging the heritage and gift of the trust and vandal-proof plaques for the house foot print (as was originally planned-for in 2005). Visibility in passing cars is to be considered. The motion passed unanimously.

Photos of the donors that were exhibited during the birthday party for the park were so well received by the public, the Committee discussed framing and placing the photos in the Civic Center. This idea was well received. *These costs would be figured into next year's budget.

Susan Coe Holbrook reported to the Committee that the Corporation Counsel had sent a letter or memo asking for a hearing on the splitting and selling of bulbs from Coe Memorial Park. She added that this communication was not well received, but against the CT Practice Book principles of notification. All interest parties are to receive such requests and communications.

Margaret Keywan suggested to the Committee that the lot on Cook Street be utilized to instruct residents and maybe even students the benefits of gardening.

Chairman Frank Pennington reported that the lights on the holiday tree would be placed shortly. They haven't been able to do so because of the wet grounds.

A Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p m was made by Susan Coe Holbrook and seconded by Marc Trivella. The motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be held November 16, 2011, at 5:00 p.m. at the City Hall auditorium

Respectfully Submitted

Margaret K. Keywan

Secretary