

Minutes

Coe Memorial Park Committee

November 16, 2011

*no recording equipment available

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: Acting Chairman Mary Zbell, Susan Coe Holbrook, Dr Isadore Temkin, Marc Trivella, Margaret Keywan

Absent

Chairman Frank Pennington, Mark McEachern – In the absence of the Chairman, Co-chairman Mary Zbell conducted the meeting.

A Motion was made by Dr Isadore Temkin and seconded by Margaret Keywan to accept the minutes of the October 19, 2011 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Park & Recreation motion responses from the previous month's meeting were reviewed by the Coe Memorial Park Committee.

Citizen Comments

1. The Connecticut Tree Protective Association representatives, Charlie Iselin, Bud Neal and Don Parrott presented the following information to the Coe Memorial Park Committee:
 - The trees in the park are in good shape after the storm of October 28 after a walk-thru with Mike Zaharek
 - The Association is the oldest in the United States being formed in 1922.
 - The main purpose is to teach people to care for trees.
 - Tree climbing competition consists of 20 men and 5 women that compete in several timed and instructional activities as follows:
 - Arial rescue to which Police and Fire departments in the area will be invited for instruction & participation
 - Safety procedures for all
 - Tree care for everyone in attendance to ask questions
 - Guidelines are set by the International Safety Commission of the Association
 - Timed competition will be held scoring skills, techniques and safety. The winners will compete in the state finals to be held in Willington then on to New England (May20 in Rhode Island) national and International competition.
 - This activity will take place the First or Second Saturday in May. It was advised that Rose Ponte be notified of the event.
 - This will be an entire day affair commencing at 8 a.m.

When questioned extensively by the Coe Memorial Park Committee the Members of the Association assured that all insurance liability issues are handled by the Connecticut Association and the National Association.

Prior to the event safety pruning will be done to the trees. All devices (ropes & gear) used are to be friction saving and do not touch the tree itself.

A small amount of electricity will be used and one table for clothing & climbing gear from a supplier. All personal gear is inspected prior to the event and if deemed unsuitable then it may be purchased by the participant or other arborists. Safety is paramount. An EMT will be on the premises that day.

A Motion (unprecedented since the inception of the Coe Memorial Park Committee) was made by Susan Coe Holbrook and seconded by Marc Trivella to waive fees (Maintenance Fees, Portico, and electric use) for the Connecticut Tree Preservation Assoc. Competition to be held some time in May, 2012. The main reason for waiving fees is that **this event will include instruction to Fire and Police Depts. and impact will be minimal.** The motion passed unanimously.

2. Mike Banziruk noted that although the storm did not destroy all mums in the park, yet all were removed for Veterans Day. This is the **THIRD YEAR** that this request has been ignored by the gardeners.

Mr. Banziruk also questioned as to the status of the eleven (11) missing tables.) and the reimbursement for them. He was told that Park & Recreation has not replaced the tables as they stated there was no funds available, therefore no restitution. He stated that there was money for all new park signs in town and for new baseball bats.

A Motion was made by Marc Trivella to have the reimbursement for 11 tables (approx. cost of \$2,310) added permanently to the Committee Agenda under Old Business until the issue is resolved. The Motion was seconded by Margaret Keywan and approved unanimously.

Park Operations

Superintendent Brett Simmons related the following:

- Meeting with Chris Ferrero of Fuss & O'Neill November 17, 2011 at 6 p.m.
- **Mike Zaharek** has cleaned the park after the storm. Lost were a flowering pear, two (2) zelkova and a Japanese Pagoda, possibly a flowering Cherry.
- An additional \$575.00 may be needed to cover expenses of grinding and planting a new tri-colored beech tree.
- Discussion on replacing lost trees to take place in the future.
- **Still River Gardens** – No reports ***Request for Brierwood and Van Engelen statements have been requested three (3) times.** To date Superintendent Simmons has not received these statements although both companies do not have charge accounts. All transactions are C.O.D
- Winter prep in progress. Maintenance on-going.
- Response to November 3, 2011 e-mail requested.* **Responded**
- **Civic Center** – Maintenance on-going

- **Grounds** - On-going maintenance. Irrigation shut down 10-2-2011. New LED lights may not be able to be installed again this year due to scheduling problems with Park & Recreation.

Old Business

Marc Trivella Spoke to John Ciesco in regard to a sign for Coe Memorial Park. Mr. Ciesco will investigate and make recommendations.

Margaret Keywan reported that she had spoken to Rebecca Brown, a botanist, and was assured that the beech tree would be fine if hostas were planted at the outer perimeter of the tree and not near the trunk. Also recommended that as little as possible the roots be disturbed and that compost be rendered with the plantings.

New Business

A letter of gratitude was read from "Miles 4 Moe Foundation" for the use of Coe Memorial Park for their organization.

By-Laws meeting November 30, 2011

A Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 pm by Susan Coe Holbrook and seconded by Marc Trivella. The motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be held on December 21, 2011 at 5pm in the city hall auditorium

Respectfully submitted

Margaret K Keywan

Recording secretary