

Minutes

July 18, 2012

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 Coe Godfrey benefactors and the Coe Family Trust.

Present: Coe Memorial Park Committee Members: Chairman Susan Coe Holbrook, Dr Isadore Temkin, Mary Zbell, Marc Trivella, Mark McEachern & Margaret Keywan

A **Motion** was made by Margaret Keywan and seconded by Mary Zbell to accept the minutes of the June 20, 2012 meeting. The motion passed unanimously

Park Operations

- Superintendent Brett Simmons reported the following:
- Master Plan: Dialogue continues with Fuss & O'Neill. A date will be determined to finalize plans with Planning and zoning.
- Tree Work: To be rescheduled
- Gardens: Report sent out on July 7, 2012
- **** Receipts not submitted to date for Spring plantings**
- Walk –thru (not mandatory) with Mike Zaharek, Susan Coe Holbrook & Jim Pescatore only members attending
- General Maintenance on going
- Civic Center: General Maintenance continues
- Grounds: General Maintenance

It was noted that the returned motion responses from Park & Recreation Commission stated that there was inadequate number of chairs in the civic center to accommodate certain Park & Recreation activities. At present there are 95 green chairs (3 missing) plus the orange chairs. The seating capacity is 275 without tables and around 150 with tables. Therefore, the Commission voted to overrule the Coe Memorial Park Committee and purchase additional chairs.

Margaret Keywan noted that in light of the recent events in Bridgewater the tenets of the Coe Godfrey Trust must be strictly adhered to.

The trust clearly states “solely for the Care, Maintenance and Improvement of Coe Memorial Park”. Folding Chairs clearly do not follow this directive as they are an improvement for the building.

A **Motion** was made again by Mary Zbell not to purchase any chairs with Trust fund money. If the Commission wishes to purchase chairs from the Commission budget, they are welcome to do so. This was seconded by Marc Trivella and passed unanimously.

Chairman Susan Coe Holbrook reported:

To date there has been no response to the clarification inquiry sent to the city on July1, 2012 regarding the CL&P billing for Fuessenich Park. This was a 30 day reply situation and after that time the matter will be referred to a higher jurisdiction.

The inquiry was made as to the balance if any in Mike Zaharek's 2011-12 contract and does this include planting of the elm, hickory and chestnut trees?

A discussion regarding the gardens was held. With a contract in place for four years there should be very little need for many perennials only a few annuals for maintaining color. This, however, is not the case and the gardens are full of annuals.

The new contract must specifically state the amounts to be spent on each type. Additional details will be drawn up by the Coe Memorial Park Committee for submission.

Also to date there has been no decision on an appointment for a fellow Coe Memorial Park member.

Mark McEachern stated that the house foot print historical signs have been installed. After a brief discussion the Committee decided to send out invitations to an unveiling of the signs on Thursday, July 26, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. The Committee thanked Mark McEachern and the Torrington Historical Society for their diligent work on this project

Again the subject of an RFQ for the new garden contract was discussed. The Committee feels strongly that this must be done as soon as possible in order to give ample time to prospective applicants.

A Motion was made at 6:40 p.m. to adjourn by Marc Trivella and seconded by Mary Zbell. This passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be held on August 15, 2012, 5 p.m. at the Civic Center.

Respectfully Submitted

Margaret K Keywan

Recording Secretary