

Minutes
Coe Memorial Park Subcommittee
November 4, 2009

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

Parks and Recreation Superintendent J Brett Simmons
Parks and Recreation Chairperson Patricia Fairchild
Parks and Recreation Commissioners: Dan Lovallo and Jim Pescatore
Coe Memorial Park Subcommittee Members: Susan Coe Holbrook, Margaret
Keywan , Frank Pennington , Dr Isadore Temkin and Mary Zbell

Absent

Coe Memorial Park Subcommittee Member Marc Trivella
Coe Memorial Park Subcommittee Member Emeritus Robert Driscoll

Patricia Fairchild opened the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

A motion was made by Susan Coe Holbrook and seconded by Frank Pennington to accept the minutes of the October 7, 2009 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Park and Recreation Superintendent J. Brett Simmons related the following:

- November 2, 2009 Superintendent Simmons had a walk thru the park with Mike Zaharek pre-viewing future work areas.
- Updated maps from the Engineering Department will be forthcoming.
- The Master Plan will be updated with new trees that have been planted with the diameter of the trees. This will be an actual working document upon completion.
- A maintenance plan was submitted from Mike Zaharek. Although the fiscal considerations were considered, a motion was made by Margaret Keywan and seconded by Mary Zbell to have the park trees in jeopardy trimmed, cable repair and necessary pruning done. The motion passed unanimously. Dr Isadore Temkin requested that the job be limited to two days (2) at a cost of \$3200. The cable repair would be an additional \$900 for three cables. The total being \$4100 for cabling, pruning and trimming.
- The irrigation system has been blown out and soon will be closed for the season. The pump remains a problem with clogging leaves. Although cleaned by staff, on weekends the pump works overtime and remains in jeopardy. Susan Coe Holbrook questioned the use of the screen atop the pump. Superintendent replied that it was in use and that a new retro fitted

grate was in the process of being obtained. Mary Zbell inquired if there were other options being explored .The Superintendent related that he was investigating other type pumps and would report back.

- The superintendent related that the new light bulbs ordered last year would be put upon the holiday tree. Frank Pennington inquired how many lights were on the tree presently but Superintendent Simmons did not know. Margaret Keywan suggested that future purchases be LED lights in order to save on electricity .The Sale begins in January.
- November and December calendar of events for the Civic Center was received.
- Budget performance report updated to August 31, 2009 and September 30, 2009 was distributed. .

Police Chief Michael Maniago addressed the group in regard to police presence in Coe Memorial Park. With limited resources as in all departments, Chief Maniago outlined the walk-in and car patrols also the detective and narcotics bureau relationship to the park. The Police Department had an additional 2,000 calls up from 2008 with a reduced budget, therefore this must be taken into consideration as well as the priority of the call. At this time there can be no full time officer available for Coe Memorial Park. Other options might be to hire an off duty officer with a minimum of 4 hours or a private firm. At the present time there are less frequent infractions due to the weather. The Subcommittee thanked Chief Maniago for all of his efforts on behalf of the park

A report was handed out by Lori Stickney of Still River Gardens stating that the firm was splitting and moving perennials. Bulbs will be planted this forthcoming week. Careful choosing of color was a priority but there may be a few renegade bulbs still in the flower beds.

This winter Lori will be working on a Victorian garden plan for the Spring planting.

Margaret Keywan once again stated that since **July and again in August and September**, the Subcommittee has been requesting proof of wholesale purchase. The contract specifically states in Section 5B that products must be purchased wholesale yet no sales receipts or proof has been rendered. Lori Stickney has admitted after being seen at Home Depot that purchases have been made there in violation of the contract. **Not until September 1, 2009 has a monetary figure been entered upon reports.**

Still no sales slips or proof of purchase.

According to an FOI request the city has not been furnished that information.

Jeremy Stickney stated that he bid on a project where costs were included and refuses to furnish any sales receipts.

Margaret Keywan objected saying it does not matter what he thinks. How can proof of wholesale purchases be manifested?

The burden of proof was upon the contractor using city funds bid job or not.

Dr Isadore Temkin asked why we have not seen an “as is” or “design plan” as specifically stated in Section 2B of the contract. No answer was given.

A motion was made by Mary Zbell and seconded by Frank Pennington to adjourn the meeting at 6 p. m.

The next meeting will be held 5:15 p.m. December 2, 2009 at the Armory

Respectfully Submitted

Margaret K Keywan

Recording secretary