

Minutes
Coe Memorial Park Advisory Committee
May 5, 2010

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 Commissioner Dan Lovallo
Coe Memorial Park Advisory Committee Members: Margaret Keywan, Susan Coe Holbrook, Marc Trivella, Frank Pennington, and Mary Zbell

Absent

Dr. Isadore Temkin

Chairperson Patricia Fairchild opened the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2010 meeting was made by Margaret Keywan, seconded by Marc Trivella, and approved unanimously.

Citizen's Comments

None

Park Operations

Mr. Simmons reported that financial reports had not been received, but would be forwarded to members at such time as they become available. The Bank of America statement was reviewed, with Ms. Coe-Holbrook making note that the Fund lost money last month.

Zaharek Landscaping has transplanted one of the spruce trees within the Park and a second spruce tree was transplanted in West Torrington using Parks funds. Two other spruce trees were determined to have doubtful success rates if transplanted and were cut down. Some of the scheduled safety pruning has been completed, with more to be done in addition to some cabling. With regard to the copper beech tree, Mr. Simmons reported that Mr. Zaharek had mentioned performing half of the treatment for this year, alternating every year, and would monitor the tree's health. A motion authorizing whatever work was needed for the copper beech tree, was made by Margaret Keywan, seconded by Mary Zbell, and approved unanimously. Mr. Simmons mentioned that there was a variegated beech tree that was being encroached and overshadowed on the Bank side and would need attention at some point. Organic fertilization of the Park is planned for some time within the week.

Mr. Simmons reported that the fountain will be drained in the near future in order to patch some of the masonry leaks. Artistic Irrigation has completed the season start-up and replaced some of the irrigation heads as part of the process. Water meters and back-flow preventers were installed and some flanges and unions were replaced due to leaks. The back-flow itself may need to be replaced in the fall at the close of the season, at a cost that may exceed \$500.

When asked about the remainder of the spruce trees, Mr. Simmons responded that the plan is to try to find homes for the trees in the fall. Mike Zaharek has offered to move some of the rhododendrons in the beds near the spruce trees.

Margaret Keywan voiced her concerns relative to the ajuga plants that are on the plant list for Coe Memorial Park as they are fast-growing, invasive plants that will grow into the grass areas. She suggested that another type of plant be substituted for this plant.

New Business

Mr. Simmons stated that a few replacement chairs would be needed to supplement the ones on hand as certain events require more chairs than we currently have. A suggestion was made that this expenditure wait until after the meeting on May 12. It was noted that not all of the chairs have been stenciled with "property of Coe Memorial Park" and that this needed to be completed.

It was questioned whether Mr. Simmons had looked into the purchase of lights for the new Christmas tree. Mr. Simmons stated that he thought it better to wait to ensure that the tree would survive and purchase the lights at that point, especially in light of improving technology.

Mr. Simmons mentioned that heavy foot traffic has worn a walkway along the South Main Street side of the Park and that this should be looked into when planning Phase II. Discussion followed regarding the lack of respect for the Park by some of the citizenry.

Old Business

A brief discussion was held regarding the date for the signing of the Still River Gardens contract and the preparation of the flower budget.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Sue Coe-Holbrook, seconded by Marc Trivella, and approved unanimously at 5:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Rategan
Parks Department Secretary