

Minutes
May 16, 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 intent of the Coe Godfrey benefactors and The Coe Family Trust.

Present: Coe Memorial Park Committee Members: Mary Zbell, Dr Isadore Temkin, Mark McEachern, and Susan Coe Holbrook,

Absent: Marc Trivella, Margaret Keywan

Also Present Park and Recreation Commissioner: Patty Fairchild, Superintendent J. Brett Simmons, and Mike Zaharek

A Motion was made by Mark McEachern to accept the minutes of the April 18, and May 2, 2012 Special Meetings. It was seconded by Susan Coe Holbrook and passed unanimously. The Coe Memorial Park Committee Members reviewed the Park & Recreation Commission responses to the previous month's motions.

A Motion was made by Mary Zbell to Amend the Agenda order to vote in a new Chairperson. The Motion was seconded by Dr. Temkin and passed unanimously.

A Nomination and Motion was made by Mary Zbell that Susan Coe Holbrook be elected the new Chairperson of the Coe Memorial Park Committee. It was seconded by Dr. Temkin and passed unanimously.

A Motion was made by Mary Zbell to turn the meeting over to the new Chairperson. It was seconded by Mark McEachern and passed unanimously.

A discussion followed as Susan Coe Holbrook stated that Nancy Holbrook has expressed the interest in being the new Member on the Committee. All those present were in favor of adding Ms. Holbrook as she was a member of the public, and as a family member they felt she would have great ideas for the Park. **A Motion** was made by Mary Zbell that the Committee recommend Nancy Holbrook for appointment by the Mayor as the newest Committee member. It was seconded by Dr. Temkin and passed unanimously.

A Motion was made by Mary Zbell to Amend the Agenda order for the tree discussion/presentation. It was seconded by Mark McEachern and passed unanimously.

Mike Zaharek and Brett Simmons discussed the tree plan and the state of the trees in the Park. The recent Tree Climbing Competition of the Connecticut Tree Preservation Association was a success. Mike stated they actually performed quite a bit of pruning and included some pruning and removal of storm damaged limbs. In addition, a tree was removed between the Park and the bank parking lot where it had actually grown into the fence. One issue that remains is the continued pruning of branches of trees that hang over the flower beds and sidewalks. Mary Zbell stated she would like to thank Mike for his work and dedication to the Park which was a sentiment echoed by the entire Committee. After a brief discussion regarding the remaining trees and the tree plan, **A Motion** was made by Mark McEachern to approve the removal of two trees (51 & 52), and replant one Elm and one Horse Chestnut as discussed. The Motion was seconded by Mary Zbell and passed unanimously.

In other tree related business, the Norway Elm (South Main St., side #2) will be coming out after an agreement is reached with CL&P regarding the guy-wire to that tree. Once that tree is removed, #3 will also have to be removed. Because of the work that had been performed by the CTPA Mike Zaharek stated his bill could be adjusted accordingly to provide for the planting and some of the future work. It was decided by the Committee that additional work be done after the fiscal year end to avoid budget overages.

Dr. Temkin took this opportunity to suggest at some point, a tree walkthrough be done at the Park. He stated that there are still some unique trees that have quite a bit of history to them. It would be nice to highlight some of the unique and specie trees and their history. *i.e.*, the fact that thirteen Hickory Chestnut trees used to line the property and now there remains only one.

A discussion and review of the proposed design and layout of the new House Footprint Historical Signs followed. The Committee commended and thanked Mark and his staff for the work and efforts on the signs and the general consensus was that the signs were good. The signs give a good recollection of the history of Coe Memorial Park, the Coe Family and its influence on the growth of Torrington. Recommendations as to a couple of changes were made. **A Motion** was made by Mary Zbell to approve the Layout Proof for the Footprint Signs as follows: Once a final draft/proof of the signs has been completed, it will be submitted to the Committee by email for polling and vote for approval.

Park Operations

The Committee reviewed the report from Superintendent Brett Simmons.

A Motion was made by Dr. Temkin and seconded by Mary Zbell to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p m.

The next meeting will be held on June 20, 2012, 5:00 p.m. at City Hall auditorium.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Coe Holbrook

Recorder of the Day