

Minutes

Coe Memorial Park Committee

June 18, 2014

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.*

Attending: Chairman Marc Trivella, Dr Isadore Temkin, Mary Zbell, Lori Chiron, Jen Plasky, Mark McEachern and Margaret Keywan

Also Attending: Marie Soliani, Susan Coe Holbrook, Frank Pennington and Mike Zaharek

A Motion was made by Mark McEachern to accept the minutes of the May 21, 2014, meeting, seconded by Lori Chiron and passed unanimously.

Park Operations:

- **Gardens:** No reports. Maintenance & Plantings
- **Civic Center:** Maintenance continuing
- **Grounds:** General Maintenance
- **Trees:** Mike Zaharek explained that the elm that was desired by the Committee was not large enough to accommodate the area chosen near to the fountain. At a later date, a new elm will be dug and planted at the perfect growth time. In the meantime, Mike chose a Katsura tree that has an unusual trunk formation that will add to the species in the Park. At the same time a walk-thru with Mike showed the vitality of the new Ginkgo tree and the decline of other trees that in the future would have to be replaced for safety reasons.

A Motion was made by Margaret Keywan to accept the proposals of Mike Zaharek for the trees and future plantings. It was seconded by Mary Zbell and passed unanimously.

Coe Memorial Park Sign: Mark McEachern has a scheduled walk-thru with provider on June 19 to view the poles and their acceptability and report back at the next meeting.

Carriage House Renovations: A discussion upon cedar shingles verses architectural shingles, wear, maintenance & endurance was discussed.

- Chairman Marc Trivella stated that Jim Pescatore will put us in contact with a wood worker that should be able to do the cupolas.
- At the next meeting Benjamin Moore samples will be painted upon the carriage house to view the acceptability of colors.
- Torrington Sash & Door will be contacted regarding the repair or re-manufacturing of the side doors.

Old Business: Dr. Temkin restated his request for a written spec/design of the plantings in Coe Memorial Park, noting that in order to continue with the vision of the Park, we should know what we have and where it is located. It was noted that the response from the Commission was canned and of no value. If plans or similar designs are submitted, they should be provided to this Committee as well. Mary Zbell seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Permanent Motion Restated By: Margaret Keywan restated her Motion that the amount of \$11,680.67 be reimbursed to the Coe Godfrey Trust for the CL&P billing from 1997 through 2013. Per order of the Probate Court the City was to obtain and provide information to the Committee, Commission and to the Court as to the billings for the 1997-2000 period and have a summary total in time for the 2013/14 annual accounting. Additional: although additional billings were provided through the Trustee, the base amount of \$9,892.91 the

Commission is claiming is inaccurate. The Committee also still requests when they received Council approval for this repayment as stated in the 11/20/13 Commission responses.

Permanent Motion Restated By: Margaret Keywan to seek reimbursement for the value of 11 Mity-Lite tables that were in the custody of the Park and Recreation Department. Margaret Keywan related that the ongoing saga of the 11 Mity-Lite tables still remains an issue that if not resolved at this level, the Probate Court will give its opinion after the settling of the CL&P Issue. This was seconded by Mary Zbell and passed unanimously.

New Business: Margaret Keywan reported that she and Lori Chiron had met with Brett Simmons and Lorie Stickney regarding the water runoff in the new Phase II parking lot. Various suggestions were given to rectify the situation which would be presented to the Coe Memorial Park Committee. Meanwhile Margaret Keywan was to consult with a horticulturalist that specializes in runoff water.

A Motion was made by Dr Isadore Temkin stated that this water drainage problem is an engineering problem not a horticultural one. (It should be resolved like the city hall heating/cooling problem) The water drainage problem should be resolved by the architect and engineers of Fuss & O'Neill. Although the rain garden was removed from the plans without the Coe Memorial Park Committee's vote, the volume of water in a storm is excessive. At the completion of the rectified project a licensed engineer from Fuss & O'Neill should sign off on this project. **The Motion was seconded by Mark McEachern and passed unanimously.**

Other Business: On June 22, the Red Mountain Avenue group is holding a "Picnic in the Park". At a later date, another group is planning a 'flash-picnic' in the Park. Also a local prayer group has started meeting weekly in the Park. It was the consensus of the Committee that these events may help to deter criminal activity at Coe Memorial Park.

A Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m. by Mary Zbell and seconded by Lori Chiron. The Motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting shall be held at 5:00 p.m. on July16, 2014 at the Civic Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret K Keywan
Secretary
Coe Memorial Park Committee