

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

Coe Memorial Park Committee Minutes
November 16, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 pm by Mark McEachern. In attendance were Mary Zbell, Margaret Keywan, Lori Chiron, Mark McEachern and Judy Addazio. Chairman Marc Trivella joined the meeting shortly after it was called to order.

Mayor Elinor Carbone and Police Chief Michael Maniago were present to discuss a revised proposal for use of the Coe Park Civic Center by the Torrington Police Department. Fran Ducotey was in attendance to represent the position of the Parks and Recreation Department.

In short, Officers Tony Pietrafesa and Rob Simon would be stationed at Coe Park. Their presence would be described as a community policing effort – to provide a sense of safety and security to potential park visitors. The proposed arrangement would be for a full year rather than the longer term described by the Chief in September. It was proposed that the arrangement would start in January 2017 once the room has been remodeled.

Margaret Keywan voiced a concern that such usage is not the intent of the donors. Mary noted that she supported the Police Department but would prefer not to allow the use of the Civic Center. Mayor Carbone noted that times have changed and this plan, if presented properly the public, could be a positive thing. Mark McEachern said that he was open-minded about the proposal but was concerned about the additional expenses related to the proposal. Mayor Carbone stated that a memorandum of understanding would be issued laying out the terms of use and payment prior to implementation. Fran Ducotey noted that after a further meeting with Mayor Carbone and Chief Maniago the Parks and Recreation Commission is behind the revised proposal.

The Committee agreed to schedule a special meeting on November 30, 2016 so that members could discuss the issue further.

Following the departure of Mayor Carbone and Chief Maniago, the minutes of October 19 were accepted.

Margaret Keywan made a motion that the cobblestones near the handicapped parking space be repaired and/or replaced. Lori Chiron seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm on a motion by Margaret Keywan, seconded by Mary Zbell.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Addazio