

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
September 20, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Marc Trivella. In attendance were Marc Trivella, Lori Chiron, Mark McEachern, Mary Zbell and Judy Addazio.

Minutes of the meeting of August 16, 2017 were approved on a motion made by Judy Addazio and seconded by Mary Zbell, after note had been made that the August visitors name was Durstin, not Dustin.

Torrington Police Chief Michael Maniago and Officer Rob Simon joined the meeting to discuss their perception of the effectiveness of the Community Outreach Station (COS). The Chief noted the station has been open for three (3) months and feedback from the community has been positive regarding events held at the Coe Memorial Park Civic Center (CMPCC) and downtown. A new door locking system has been installed which allows other officers to use the office. The office will need to be winterized. Chief Maniago noted there had been a 75% drop in calls to the park environs three years ago and another small improvement has been noted since the COS opened. The Chief will review the impact of the COS in December to decide whether to continue with the outreach program here. Officer Simon concurred with the Chief and also noted some of the activities that had taken place since the opening of the COS – Nutmeg Conservatory Active Shooter presentation for 75 students; CJR year-end party for 20 people; Community Clean Up Team of 15 volunteers; Sullivan Senior Center Picnic in the Park drew 100 people; and, Back to School Meet & Greet. Upcoming events include Community Clean Up on 09/28/17; Downtown Block Watch on 09/26/17; Brooker Memorial Active Shooter presentation on 10/09/17; and, Youth & Police monthly meetings.

Lori Stickney and Brett Simmons joined the meeting so that Lori could present her ideas regarding a memorial in honor of Margaret Keywan. After reviewing Lori's suggestions, **Mary Zbell made a motion**, seconded by Mark McEachern, to follow Lori's recommendation to plant a Nikiski willow tree. Lori will provide information to the Committee regarding the price, when to plant, the expected life span and dimensions at peak growth. Members of the CMPCC will supplement the contribution from the Keywan family and Still River Gardens will donate the cost of the labor to plant the tree. Lori will send samples of a plaque that will be used to identify the tree as a memorial to Margaret.

The Committee discussed the small triangular planting bed on South Main Street. **Lori Chiron made a motion**, seconded by Mary Zbell, to replace the plantings with grass for ease of maintenance.

The Committee noted that blue stone pavers were installed in the garden bed near the side entrance to the CMPCC in lieu of planting more vinca in that location.

Brett raised the issue of the recent lighting analysis performed by (Eversource?). The Committee is supportive of the idea but requested that Brett allow us input on the temperature of the replacement lighting. Brett will pursue further with (Eversource?).

In Old Business, Marc reported that John Ciesco said the cost to restore the Coe Memorial plaque on the boulder only is \$1,600.00. John Ciesco will ask the vendor for an estimate on the War Memorial plaque. Marc will ask Brett for guidance re the next steps to follow.

Marc reported that he has had no response from Boston Public Garden regarding signage policy. He will try to contact Arnold Arboretum to ask if they would share their policy with us. The Committee intends to develop a signage policy that would address appropriate signage for paths, tree identification, parking, regulations, etc.

It was noted that the yews have not been removed from the carriage house foundation. The Committee hopes to donate the yews to Christmas Village. The Committee Chair will contact Miles Borzelleri to determine if the trust document allows us to make a donation of plant material to another city entity.

In new business, Mary Zbell will ask Margaret Keywan's family if they would like the Committee to archive Margaret's Coe Memorial Park files.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm on a motion by Lori Chiron, seconded by Mark McEachern.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Addazio