

**Torrington Parks and Recreation Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 7, 2026**

**Call to Order :** Chairperson Patricia A. Fairchild called to order a regular meeting of the Torrington Parks and Recreation Commission on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. at Coe Memorial Park Civic Center.

**Roll Call:** In attendance were Commissioners Mike Fritch, Casey McKenna, and Recreation Director Bobby Pentino.

**Adoption of Previous Month 's Minutes :** Motion to accept minutes by Mike Fritch, seconded by Casey McKenna and unanimous approval.

**Correspondence :** Email of thanks from TAFSA for their program at Christmas Village.

**Citizens' Comments:**

1. Kiki Tucker from Lions Club expressing thanks for their craft fair at Armory. She updated the commission on things that transpired during the fair and suggestions for the future.
2. Leona Hufton, also from the Lions Club, reported on misinformation, especially in regard to the new handicap entrance.

**Committee Updates**

**Facility and Field Use:**

**Besse Park Pond:**

1. Matt Palmisano, TMS educator, Fishing Club for students with dates to be determined. Motion to approve pending insurance information by Casey McKenna, seconded by Mike Fritch and unanimous approval.

**Coe Memorial Park :**

1. Matt Pagano, Tour of Litchfield Hills, August 2, 2026. Motion to approve by Casey McKenna, seconded by Mike Fritch and unanimous approval.
2. Arlene Gonzales, Mujeres en Paz, seminar, January 24 and 25. Motion to deny the request due to lack of information by Mike Fritch, seconded by Casey McKenna and unanimous vote.

**Capital/Budget :** Bobby is working on the budget.

**: Facility Operations** None

**Parks Operations :** None

**Coe Memorial Park** : Bobby stated there will be an increase in the budget because of Still River Gardens.

**Old Business** : None

**New Business** : None

**Other Business:**

1. Commissioner Fritch reported on the success of two pickle ball tournaments. He delivered many toys to Friendly Hands as the result of one and the New Year's Eve event was well-attended with a successful food drive and many gift cards collected.
2. Bobby Pentino reported:
  - The basketball tournament coordinated by Ryan Phalen and Bill Nataro was successful with 26 teams participating.
  - Kenzie had a volleyball tournament over the Christmas break.
  - Cups and Canvas is in progress.
  - Basketball games at the Armory are going great especially with TCA and ST. John Paul the Great team usage.
  - There will be Duct Tape Derby at West Torrington as occurred last year.
  - Another Valentine's Day dance will be held at Coe Civic Center.
3. On a motion by Mike Fritch with a second by Casey McKenna, the commission voted unanimously to request an update on the building of the basketball court at Elise Besse Park. When will it be completed?

**Christmas Village Wrap-up**

- Commissioner Fritch stated that better signage is needed at the village in regard to donating.
- Bobby distributed copies of an attendance report for this season indicating an increase from last year.
- Bobby also distributed copies of a temporary financial report with a more complete report to follow after donations are recorded.
- There will be another meeting of the Christmas Village committee in the coming weeks to complete the wrap-up and offer suggestions for next year.

**Executive Session** : Not needed.

**Adjournment:** On a motion by Mike Fritch with a second by Casey McKenna, the commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:00 p.m.

