

Woods Hole Historical Collection
P. O. Box 185
Woods Hole, MA 02543

REGISTER
Woods Hole Community Association
1878 - 1991

5 boxes

WOODS HOLE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

HISTORY

The origins of the Woods Hole Community Association go back to 1878 when a group of Woods Hole residents decided the village needed a hall for community meetings and entertainment. Money for the building was raised by the selling of shares to village citizens. The building, known as Liberty Hall, was dedicated on December 31, 1878. Liberty Hall served as the location for meetings of village churches, civic and social organizations, traveling minstrel shows, and plays put on by local theater groups. A library was located in the basement. Another basement room was rented for various purposes, among them a poolroom and a barber shop.

The Liberty Hall Association, a group of local men, ran the building in its early years. Later on the shares were bought by Isaiah Spindell, an association member, who ran the building on a commercial basis. The building eventually fell into disuse and disrepair.

In 1919, the Woods Hole Community Association was formed by concerned Woods Hole citizens. For \$2000, the association bought Liberty Hall with the goal of seeing the hall returned to its original purpose of social, civic and educational use, as well as for entertainments and amusements. The group elected a board of trustees who were to maintain and manage the building and its activities, as well as handle all funds connected with these purposes. The only requirements for membership in the association are an interest in the association and a contribution towards it.

The Woods Hole Community Association continues to manage and maintain the building, renamed Woods Hole Community Hall. Maintenance problems which arose over the years have been met, often after great struggle. These include the provision of adequate plumbing, heating and light; the acquisition of furniture, an asbestos stage curtain, athletic equipment, repairs, painting, as well as insurance and the renting of the hall to various organizations. Most uses under the current association are similar to those of the building's early days: dances, civic meetings, plays, benefits, arts and craft shows. However the association has also made it available for use as a canteen for servicemen during World War II, a newly formed nursery school, and a teen center.

In recent years, the board of trustees of the Community Association has felt it appropriate to play an expanding role in local affairs. Village meetings to confront the problems brought by changing times have been organized. Encouragement and help have been offered to groups who are working to meet these problems.

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SCOPE NOTE

This collection includes papers of the forerunner of the Woods Hole Community Association, the Liberty Hall Association. This association was formed in 1878 to provide a hall for community meetings and entertainment. Papers related to Liberty Hall include its 1878 deed, 1907 annual meeting minutes, 1906 Liberty Hall Association incorporation papers, information on the 1919 sale to the Woods Hole Community Association, as well as ephemera related to Liberty Hall's dedication and early programs.

Woods Hole Community Association papers, dating from 1919 through 1991, include bylaws, membership lists, secretary's minutes, treasurer reports, annual financial statements, annual meeting minutes, board meeting minutes, and lists of board members and trustees. Membership letters and newsletters also provide information about the activities of the association, as do ephemera related to activities and events held in the hall.

WOODS HOLE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

BOX 1 LIBERTY HALL – COMMUNITY HALL

- 1-1. Deed to land for Liberty Hall, 1878.
- 1-2. Ticket to Liberty Hall Dedication, 1878.
- 1-3. Liberty Hall Ephemera:
 - a. 1879 Concert Program.
 - b. 1895 Invitation to Hall.
 - c. 1905 Program for Play.
- 1-4. Expenses for Liberty Hall Case, 1906.
- 1-5. Annual Meeting Minutes, 1907.
- 1-6. Incorporation Papers for Liberty Hall Association, 1906.
- 1-7. Letter from John Sylvia to Frank McNaught, 1919.
re: Election proceedings
- 1-8. Formation of “Declaration of Trust”, 1919.
- 1-9. Sale of land to Woods Hole Community Association, 1919.
- 1-10. “Messy notes” from early secretary, n.d.
- 1-11. Prince Crowell’s recollections of Community Hall, 1966.
- 1-12. Short History of Woods Hole Community Hall, 1963.

BOX 2 WOODS HOLE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

- 2-1. Two letters from F. L. Gifford, President re: basketball in hall, 1922.
- 2-2. Program for play at Community Hall to raise money for streetlights, n. d.
- 2-3. Poster for show, 1924, from Woods Hole Garage collection.
- 2-4. Photo of Donald “Marshy” Cross playing drums at Community Hall, 1941.
- 2-5. Constitution, 1946, from Copeland Collection.
- 2-6. Teen Center, 1946-1947.
- 2-7. Fund-raising letter, 1947?, from Copeland Collection.
- 2-8. Fund-raising letter, 1948.
- 2-9. Priscilla Players Lease, 1948-1949.
- 2-10. Correspondence to Mrs. Redfield, 1949-1970.
- 2-11. Boy Scout Pack, 1950, 1953, 1958.
- 2-12. Officers and Trustees, 1956
- 2-13. Letter from Mrs. Redfield, President to John O. Crane, 1960. re possible grant from Friendship Fund.
- 2-14. Indenture, lease to Martha Howbert of top floor, Community Hall, 1971.
- 2-15. Fund-raising flyers, n. d.
- 2-16. Brochures, letters, photos of Woods Hole Community Association activities, ephemera, n.d.
- 2-17. Miscellaneous historic items, n. d.

- 2-18. Newsclippings: Woods Hole, n. d.
- 2-19. Newsclippings about Community Hall, n. d.
- 2-20. Lease for Woods Hole School, 1985.
- 2-21. "History of Woods Hole School" – Notes for talk by Ruth Schleicher, n. d.

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BOX 2, continued.

- 2-22. Elevation drawing of Fire House with new exterior staircase, n. d.
- 2-23. Material on Annual Art Show/Exhibits 1965, 2001.

BOX 3

- 3-1. Membership Lists, 1920 – 1940.
- 3-2. Membership Book, 1955 – 1958.
- 3-3. Proceeds from Fund Drive: Collections – Memberships, 1958 – 1961.
- 3-4. Membership Book, 1962 – 1966.
- 3-5. Annual Financial Statements, 1948 – 1971. Includes financial reports to the state for 1969, 1970, 1971.

BOX 4

- 4-1. Records, Bylaws, Minutes, Miscellany, 1919 – 1951.
- 4-2. Account Book, 1947 – 1957, 1963.
- 4-3. Secretary's Minutes, 1951 – 1973.
- 4-4. Secretary and Treasurer Reports, 1973 – 1978.

BOX 5

- 5-1. Annual Meeting Minutes, 1986-2003.
- 5-2. Annual Financial Reports and Budgets, 1985-2001.
- 5-3. Board Meeting Minutes, 1982-1989.
- 5-4. Board Meeting Minutes, 1990-1994.
- 5-5. Board Meeting Minutes, 2000-2003.
- 5-6. Board Members and Trustees, 1983?, 1985-1986, 1986-1987, 1987-1988, 1988-89, 1989-90, 1991-1992, 1994-1995, 2001-2002, 2003-2004.
- 5-7. By-Laws (Proposed), 1985, 1986.
- 5-8. Correspondence, 1998-2002.
- 5-9. Undated Posters and Notices for Events.
- 5-10. Miscellaneous:
 - a. Jazz at Community Hall income and expenses.
 - b. Monthly planning schedule, 1985.

- c. Three year plan for Community Hall and Fire Station, 1975-1986.
 - d. Graph of annual contributions, 1975.
 - e. Poster of Woods Hole Festival prizes.
- 5-11. Membership Letters, 1982-2008.
- 5-12. National Register Plaque for Woods Hole School, 1986.
- 5-13. Newsletters, early 1980s.
- 5-14. Newsletters, 1987-1990 and undated.

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BOX 5, continued.

- 5-15. Woods Hole School Committee:
- a. Financial Reports, 1988-2001.
 - b. Minutes, 1987-1994.
- 5-16. Steamship Authority Ferry Slip, N.D.
- 5-17. Taft's Playground:
- a. Organizational letter, letter from Falmouth DPW, 1989.
 - b. Report of Revenue and Expenditures, insurance certificate, letters from Falmouth DPW, the Taft's Playground Committee, and Ben and Jerry's.
 - c. Photos of model, grant proposal to the Woods Hole Foundation, agreement with architect, letter requesting donations, 1990.
- 5-18. Treasurer's Reports, 1982-1995.
- 5-19. Treasure's Reports, 2000-2004.
- 5-20. Village Market, Annual Report, 1978.
- 5-21. Miscellaneous Notices and Posters, 1984.
- 5-22. Miscellaneous Notices and Posters, 1985.
- 5-23. Miscellaneous Notices and Posters, 1986.
- 5-24. Miscellaneous Notices and Posters, 1987.
- 5-25. Miscellaneous Notices and Posters, 1988.
- 5-26. Miscellaneous Notices and Posters, 1989.
- 5-27. Miscellaneous Notices and Posters, 1990.
- 5-28. Miscellaneous Notices and Posters, 1991.
- 5-29. Newsclipping. "Steps Down As President of Woods Hole Community Association". Falmouth Enterprise, July 31, 2009.