

Local History Resource Center
Peabody Institute Library
82 Main Street, Peabody, MA 01960

Peabody Community House Records, 1915-2003

Repository: Local History Resource Center, Peabody Institute Library, Peabody, MA.

Call Number: MS3

Creator: Peabody Community House

Title: Peabody Community House Records, 1915-2003

Dates: 1915-1953, 2003

Sizes: .050 LF

Language (s): English

Abstract: The Peabody Community House was created for the benefit of the children of Peabody in order to provide a safe place for them to play and learn skills such as cooking.

Organizational History

In the fall of 1913, the community was in great need of activities to keep young boys off the streets; a place that would engage them in healthy play and broaden their horizons. A group of men raised \$500-600 hundred dollars to rent out the basement of the Wallis school. At the Wallis school they would engage these children in athletics, sports, games and reading. This was officially known as the Peabody Boy's Fraternity. In its first winter, about 200 boys would attend every night. By 1915, the Boys were joined by girls, forming the Peabody Community House. Now with too many people and too little of space, a larger space was needed to accommodate the needs of the children.

The Peabody Community House held its first meeting at the Peabody Historical Society at 11 Main St. on December 9, 1915. The first meeting involved the founding members voting for the official members of the organization. The ballot votes elected Charles E. Barrett as temporary Clerk, S Howard Donnell, who would become Peabody's first mayor about a year later, as the Justice of Peace. After its incorporation, its officers were: Fred N. Moore as President, Warren B. Bowen as Vice President, Charles E. Barrett as Clerk, Arthur E. Poole as treasurer and Marguerite Osborne as financial secretary. In February of 1916, an endowment of \$22,000 was given to the organization. With the money they purchased the Old Shaw Estate at 10 Holten St. and also remodeled it. The house continued up until 1924 when it was shut down because they had very little support and money. The cooperation fully dissolved in the 1950s when they lost a court case for not having paid their taxes. The attorney general deemed them as the guilty party and they were closed indefinitely. The house was sold and the funds went to the Western Five Cents Savings Bank in Peabody. Those funds would later be turned over to the Peabody Institute Library for the purpose of funding events and children's books.

Scope and Content Note

This collection documents the Peabody Community House and contains ten folders of papers and a book that fits into one box. The book of minutes is from directors' meetings, Board of Trustees, special meetings, and general meetings from 1915-1920. The records include By-laws, annual reports, correspondence, receipts, tax bills, and court cases. It also contains records from the Warren

Five Cents Savings Bank and from the Peabody Institute Library. The letters are to the directors and residents of Peabody explaining their accomplishments of the previous year and donation pleas for the next year. The annual reports are from the President of the Peabody Community House. Some of the other papers concern internal affairs, organizing activities and the relations with Peabody Community House and the Attorney General.

Later materials include tax assessments for the building and information about how to dissolve the Community House by looking into similar situations. There is a notice of a special meeting from 1953 which included how to go about liquidating the Community House assets including the selling of the house; resolution to turn over the balance funds to the Western Five Cents Savings Bank of Peabody.

Arrangement

Series 1: Before dissolution, 1915-1953

Series 2: After dissolution, 1922-2003

Series 3: Unsorted Papers, No Date

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation: [Identify the item], [Folder Number], Peabody Community House Collection, Local History Resource Center, Peabody Institute Library, Peabody Massachusetts.

Provenance: Unclear how the records became part of the collection and these papers are considered “found in collection.”

Acquisition Information: Found in Collection.

Processing: Nancy C. Barthelemy, archivist, 2007; reprocessed Erik R. Bauer, archivist, 2013-2014; Brianna Cullins, intern, 2017.

Access Rights: Collection is open research.

Physical Access Restrictions: None.

Technical Access Restrictions: None.

Copyright: All copyrights belong to the Peabody Institute Library, Peabody, MA. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the archivist. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Local History Resource Center as the owner of the physical items is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, when applicable, which must also be obtained by the researcher. This does not apply to items where the copyright has expired.

Conservation Work: Papers were unfolded and tears mended. Some memos and correspondence were photocopied onto archival quality paper to preserve their recorded information. The papers that had multiple pages were attached with archival paperclips. The book had a severely damaged spine and is wrapped in ribbon.

Related Collections: None.

Separated Material: None.

Subject Headings:

Peabody (Mass.)
Peabody (Mass.)-History
Peabody (Mass.)-Social Life & Customs
Peabody Community House
Peabody Boys' Federation
Attorney General-Essex County-Massachusetts
Peabody Institute (Peabody, Mass.)

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Before dissolution, 1915-1953

This series contains materials that relate to the Peabody Community Houses administration including its taxes, annual reports, correspondence, receipts, court cases, by-laws, meetings.

Box Number/Folder Title

Box 1	Container	Folder
PCH, By-laws, No Date	1	1
PCH, Meetings, 1916, 1920, 1953	1	2
PCH, Annual Reports, 1916-1918	1	3
PCH, Correspondence, 1922, 1949,1950,1952	1	4
PCH, Receipts, 1919, 1920, 1953	1	5
PCH, Taxes, 1916, 1949, 1950, 1952, 1953	1	6
PCH, Court Cases, 1952-1953	1	7

Oversize:

Meeting minutes, 1915-1920

Series 2: After dissolution, 1922-2003

This series contains materials that relate to the Community Houses funds and the Warren Five Cents Savings Bank, which would later be turned over to the Peabody Institute Library for the purchase of children's books.

Box 1	Container	Folder
PCH, Warren Five Cents Savings Bank, 1922, 1925, 1939, 1947, 1951, 2003	1	8
PCH, Peabody Institute Library, 1951, 2003	1	9

Series 3: Unsorted Papers. Box contains illegible papers that can't be identified at this time.

Box Number/Folder Title

Box 1	Container	Folder
Unsorted Papers, No Date	1	10