

**Men's Community Club  
of South Hingham Collection, 1924-1935**

**Repository:** Hingham Public Library  
**Manuscript Number:** MSC # 37  
**Creator:** Men's Community Club of South Hingham  
**Processed By:** Jennifer Williams. Finding aid completed in July of 2015.  
**Extent:** 1 Half Document Box, 1 Nonstandard Flat Box  
**Access:** Open for research.

**Provenance**

This collection was created by members of the Men's Community Club of South Hingham between 1924 and 1935. It was gifted to the Hingham Public Library by an anonymous donor.

**Historical Note**

The Men's Community Club of South Hingham was created in approximately 1922 with the purpose to "promote friendliness, neighborliness, and good-fellowship in our midst, and to further the Social, Religious, Educational, and general welfare of the community." Individuals eligible to join the club were male, at least seventeen years old, and living in the South Parish. They were encouraged to attend all regular meetings at the Wilder Memorial Hall, which took place on the third Thursday of every month, as well as the annual meeting in June.

The Club was involved in many different aspects of Hingham society and government, especially activities and events that impacted the South Parish. The civics committee was responsible for keeping up-to-date on all issues relating to town government actions and citizen rights, including the creation of school playgrounds, public health, zoning laws, garbage collection, and sidewalk maintenance. This meant attending town department meetings, creating detailed reports for each Club meeting, asking members to sign petitions and attend town department meetings, and sending letters to town officials on behalf of the Club.

Through the efforts of the civics committee, the Club gained some power and respect among the community. Town officials often came to meetings in order to discuss the issues as well as to hear the opinions and concerns of Club members. There were also times when representatives of different town committees and departments met with the civics committee in order to make decisions about issues affecting the South Parish. The committee was also able to use the Club's collective voice to arrange for an expert to give a lecture on town planning for the Planning Board, which resulted in a letter of thanks from that department.

There was also a large social aspect to the Club. The entertainment committee organized and held such events as dinners for members at the monthly meetings, talks on different educational and recreational subjects, holiday parties for adults and children, subscription dances for members and their significant others, and elaborate minstrel shows performed by members. They also sent flowers to families when a member died or was ill. The goal of the committee was to create a fun and caring community for members and their families.

In order to fulfill their purpose of furthering the religious and educational welfare of the community, the Club also managed Boy Scout Troop IV. Led by the Boy Scout Committee, the troop participated in such activities as charitable fundraisers, camping expeditions, and neighborhood cleanups. It was extremely popular and almost always had a waiting list of boys hoping to join it.

The Club's governing bodies also sought to ensure that all membership policies were enforced. The membership committee was responsible for ensuring that dues were paid on time, taking the names of individuals in arrears for dues off the membership list, and trying new methods to increase and maintain membership levels. They often worked with the entertainment community to develop programs that would entice residents of South Hingham to repeatedly attend their meetings and actively participate in their causes.

Aside from these four committees, there was also an executive committee whose function was to oversee the general workings of the Club. This included monitoring finances, appointing temporary committees, presiding over monthly and annual meetings, as well as proposing new ideas and courses of action to Club members.

It is unknown when the Club formally disbanded, but it was a thriving organization in the 1920s and 1930s and was able to make many contributions to Hingham society and government.

### **Scope and Content Note**

This collection contains the records of the Men's Community Club of South Hingham between 1924 and 1935. The bulk of the collection is composed of one ledger with typed and handwritten minutes for monthly and annual meetings that took place between 1929 and 1935. The ledger also contains descriptions of social events that occurred directly before or after those meetings. Administrative records include correspondence, photographs, handwritten notes, programs, receipts, reports, member lists, and by-laws which focus on Club activities between 1924 and 1935.

### **Arrangement**

This collection is arranged into the following two series:

- Series I. Meeting Minutes, 1929-1935
- Series II. Administrative Records, 1924-1935

### **Series I. Meeting Minutes, 1929-1935**

#### **Box 1**

This series is composed of one ledger containing typed and handwritten minutes for Club meetings that took place between 1929 and 1935. The information provided includes the proceedings at both monthly and annual meetings as well as the events that were held directly before and after them.

The entries include such information as the discussions and votes on such subjects as Club finances, petitions and letters to be sent to town departments, changing the by-laws and membership policies, committee reports, new issues affecting South Hingham, the Club's stance on these issues, and upcoming Club events. There are also detailed descriptions of the activities held before and after business meetings, including lectures, dinners, and movies.

Included within the ledger are advertisements for upcoming meetings and other club events, tickets for subscription dances, typed annual reports created by the Club secretary, photographs, and correspondence. At the beginning of the ledger there is also a typed version of the original Club by-laws, as well as changes that were made in the 1930s.

## **Series II. Administrative Records, 1924-1935**

### **Box 2**

This series contains correspondence, photographs, handwritten notes, performance programs, receipts, bills for member dues, Club officer reports, member lists, and Club by-laws dating between 1924 and 1935. These materials focus on a broad range of subjects, including the Club's participation in the 1929 Fourth of July Parade and the Tercentenary Celebration, flowers sent to members and their families, Club finances, contemporary issues affecting the South Parish, cooperation with local government departments, official events and meetings organized by the Club, and member dues. The series is organized by date.