

2000.064 Stockbridge Bowl Association Records

Extent: 20 boxes

Inclusive Dates: 1935-present

Bulk Dates: 1946-2000

Scope and Content:

The Stockbridge Bowl Association Records primarily contains records produced by the SBA from its founding in 1946 to the present. The Stockbridge Bowl Association is a non-profit organization with the purpose of protecting the Stockbridge Bowl, a lake at the north end of town. Records in this collection include membership lists, meeting minutes, association newsletters, financial and legal documents, newspaper clippings, photographs, and maps. A small number of documents precede the SBA's founding in 1946. These documents include a December 1930 inspection of a dam on the Bowl and newspaper clippings about the Bowl from 1935 onward. This is an open collection to which new records are periodically added two years after their creation.

A large portion of this collection concerns the administration and general operation of the Association. The majority of these records deal with lake management. There are records ranging from the various committees formed by the SBA, to the government agencies the SBA works with to protect and manage the lake, to the many vendors that have been hired to carry out the tasks involved in managing the lake and the surrounding area.

The collection contains minutes from annual meetings and board meetings, and correspondence dating from 1956 to present. The correspondence also includes the annual SBA newsletters from 1954 to present. There are records from the committees within the SBA, financial and tax records, and some legal records. The government agencies include local, state, and federal agencies, and the vendors are primarily concerned with tasks involved in lake management.

Within the administrative files, the collection includes the original Association handbook from 1946, the first by-laws adopted by the Association, and copies of the certificates of organization and incorporation for the Association. There are also records documenting the SBA's interactions with other lake association and organizations, as well as records of the properties owned by the SBA: the Island, Bullard Woods, the public beach, and Gould Meadows.

Newspaper clippings about the Stockbridge Bowl date from 1935, prior to the Association's founding, to present. The collection also includes photographs, slides, and negatives documenting both the lake and the activities of the SBA, a number of maps of the lake and the surrounding area, and one VHS tape containing footage of the Stockbridge Bowl.

Historical Note:

In August 1946, 75 Stockbridge Bowl property owners and interested people from the area voted to organize a Stockbridge Bowl Protective Association for the purpose of preserving the beauty of the lake. Anson Phelps Stokes was elected temporary chairman of the group. Dr. Stokes named a large committee to draft a constitution and by-laws and to bring in nominations for regular officers in September 1946. In October 1946, the Stockbridge Bowl Association was voted into existence.

Dr. Stokes was elected president of the Association in late October 1946. It was voted to create a handbook explaining the group's objectives: to protect the natural beauty of the Stockbridge shore and watershed, the health and well-being of their residents and the interests of the public at large, and to set standards that may aid the cause of conservation. In June 1948, the SBA filed a petition to incorporate the Association, and the Certificate of Incorporation was issued in August 1948.

One of the first acts of the newly incorporated Association was to purchase the Island in the Stockbridge Bowl for \$1,400 from the Laurel Lake Association in August 1948. The purchase was made with the understanding that the Island was to be used for public recreation and to prevent commercial operations. Since 1948, the SBA has acquired three additional properties, either by donation or purchase: Bullard Woods, Gould Meadows, and the public beach.

The Stockbridge Bowl has been designated a "great pond" by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, bringing the lake under the protection of the state. This entails a significant amount of interaction between the SBA and government agencies. The Association works closely with the town and state to ensure that the Stockbridge Bowl is well-protected and managed.

The Stockbridge Bowl Association Records were donated to the Stockbridge Library, Museum & Archives by the Stockbridge Bowl Association on April 1, 2000.

Arrangement:

In January of 2000, before donating their records to the Museum & Archives, the Stockbridge Bowl Association hired the services of a professional organization company called Berkshire TimeSaver to organize and categorize the records. This finding aid has been adapted by Museum & Archives staff from the text written by Berkshire TimeSaver (Kathy Baird) in 2000. The collection is organized into nine series: administrative files, minutes, correspondence, general operation, government agencies, vendors, newspaper articles, photographs/slide/negatives, and maps.

- Series I: Administrative Files
- Series II: Minutes
- Series III: Correspondence
- Series IV: General Operation
- Series V: Government Agencies
- Series VI: Vendors
- Series VII: Newspaper Articles
- Series VIII: Photographs/Slides/Negatives
- Series IX: Maps

Administrative Information:

Stockbridge, Library, Museum & Archives
P.O. Box 119, 46 Main Street
Stockbridge, MA 01262

Barbara Allen, Curator
ballen@cwmares.org
(413) 298-5501 x106