

HERSHEY MILL SPORTS GROUP – SPRING 2017 MEETING



The Spring Meeting of the Hershey's Mill Sports Group (HMSG) was held on Wednesday, May 10 at 2:00 P.M. in the HM Community Center. Don Evons, President, called the meeting to order and Roseanne Havird recorded. Approximately 35 residents attended the meeting.

Don explained that Charlie Gentile, due to illness, resigned and appointed him President leaving the Vice President's position open. Dave Clewell accepted the position of Vice President and received Board approval. Dave has been a major supporter of Tennis and has increased the number of people using the courts as well as improving the use of the courts on a daily basis.

Overall there has been a steady growth in the number of HM residents involved in sports.

- 2013: 50 people played sports
- 2017: 550 play and various types of sports have been added i.e. pickleball (130 members) Biking (27) Table Tennis (50) Bocce (271)

Don asked for a motion to approve the Fall 2016 minutes. Seth French seconded the motion and with a show of hands the minutes were approved.

Treasurer Report: Reade Nimick, reported a sum of \$2500 in HMSG's bank account. Reade noted that this is the lowest amount we've ever had in the bank. The main reason for the decrease falls on the reduced number of participants at our Social Events. Although we receive funds from the HM Master Association, social functions always brought the bulk of our revenue.

Don shared that this topic was identified in the Fall of 2016 and a HMSG Funding Committee was formed. Their task is to consider ways of making money for the Sports Groups. One suggestion was to ask members of each sport group to give \$10 a year. These funds could pay for the equipment that Activity Leaders are now providing their sport i.e., pickleballs, ping pong balls. In addition to supporting activity expenses, these funds could be used to support the Master Association's capitol expenses for the HMSG wish list.

Mary Lou Perry suggested that activity leader ask each member of their respective sport to fund their needs.

Facilities Report:

John DeVol reported that the Wind screen would be going up and asked for volunteers. He also mentioned the ramp for the ball machine would be installed within the next week. Don reported the improvements made to facilities: the tennis fences were lowered, sport equipment shed added and the shuffleboard area would be receiving a new surface. This sport however will be moved in the future, resurfacing and not rebuilding, seems like the prudent decision. Anyone having any suggestions about areas needing improvement should 'step up and say something' to John DeVol.

Spring Social: Since Demi Koslowski is in Florida, Don Evons, and Sharon Kope reported on the plans for the Social to be held on Friday, May 19 5:30 – 9:00 P.M in the Sullivan House. A buffet dinner, silent auction, baskets of cheer and 50-50 raffle will be provided. A BYOB table will be set up on the patio where a large tent will cover the area. Main Line Gardens is donating the outside decorations. Although 70 is a large number it is a break-even point for covering our expenses. To return the socials to a fund raiser we need to attract more participants. Flyers announcing the Social were available for members to distribute.

Memorial Day Event: Seth French reported that all activities are up and running. Sign-Up Sheets will be available for the sporting events.

Year in Review:

- 1) Two improvements were made at courtside: The fences were lowered and the openings were widened allowing volunteers to clean the courts instead of hiring someone.
The biggest concern with lowering the fences was that more balls would be hit over the fence. After a 67-hour survey, 7 balls went over in that time span.
- 2) Corners of the courts were cut reducing player's time for retrieving balls and adding space for beautifying the entrance.
- 3) New Shed was added and houses the tennis ball machine and sundry of supplies.
- 4) New ramp for moving the ball machine will be added to the shed within the week.
- 5) Electrical outlets added for easier use of ball machine.
- 6) A storage space was remodeled to provide a warming room for paddleball members during cool weather. It also doubles as a Social Room for players.
- 7) Shuffleboard area will be resurfaced this week.
- 8) ROCO Registration System was implemented.(See detailed report below)

Open House may be held on the new building during the week of 5/20/17.

Activity Leaders:

Biking: Seth French reported 27 members in the group. Their rides have been inside and outside HM. More rides are being scheduled for outside and they are hoping to use the bus to travel to more distant places to ride bikes. Members must have their own bikes. It is to be noted that an equal number of men and women participate.

Men's Interclub: The men's tennis plays 5 courts for 10 consecutive weeks. Five of the matches are at home, the balance away. The season ends in mid-July.

Tennis: Dave Clewell, president of the Tennis Club has enthusiastically grown the club. Through advertising, 21 men play each weekday at 4:00 and at 11:00 A.M. on Saturday. New members 3.0+ are welcomed. Lisa Groff and Carol Poling run women's groups on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Email Dave with questions: dave@caspack.com

Don Evons will provide free tennis clinics on June 12 at 2:00 P.M. for one hour and on three (3) consecutive Mondays. Spare rackets are available. Ball machine clinic will be held at 3:00 on June 12th (all players are welcome).

Pickleball: Roger Karr reports 130 active members with 50-70 members meeting once a week and others playing 4 or 5 times a week. The schedule is Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Wednesday's time is 5:30 P.M. with Wednesday and Saturdays our busiest days. See ROCO for exact times and court availability. New members needing to renew their skills or learn the sport meet with seasoned players upon their arrival at the courts. Clinics provide strategies for playing the sport and ways of controlling the ball. Once a month the group meets for pizzas.

Paddleball: Jack Hamilton coordinates the sport which plays on the fenced in courts. The Warming Room should help this sport as it also can be played in the winter.

Horseshoes: This sport will be played on Memorial Day, the 4th of July, and Labor Day.

Bocce: Joe and Theresa Carrone coordinate the sport. Joe has formed a committee which will ensure the continuance of the leadership over the years. Presently there are 80 players.

All are welcome to play. The league begins on May 15 and ends in the 1st week in September with a Single Elimination Playoff. The winner receiving a trophy.

Table Tennis: Allan Shaffer reports there are 50 active participants and three (3) tables are in use. Players meet on Thursdays at 2:00 P.M. and on Saturdays. See ROCO for exact times and table availability. The group had its first tournament at Hillview and we won. The defeat was a first for Hillview!

Golf Outsiders: Golf outsiders are residents who do not belong to the HMGC. They play weekly. A leader is needed to continue what Don Fell started.

Bowling: From a previous report John Cvinar stated that the Hershey's Mill Bowling League closed out the 2016/2017 season with a rousing competition for first place honors in late March. The League had its annual awards banquet at HMGC on April 19. All teams were honored with a share of the prize pool.

CPR: Phyllis Panico reports there is interest in having CPR training at Hershey's Mill. The Summer or Fall time for a class is suggested. Usually about 20 -25 people attend. The session will be announced in the HM Guide & Digest.

ROCCO: Don Evons reported on the Computerized Scheduling System for Courts. In the past schedules were done by hand. Players had to drive to the courts to determine when they were available and to register for a court. The ROCO system costs \$250 a year which is a very modest sum considering the costs range anywhere from \$250 - \$100,000 for court/tee time systems. (In addition we are seeking a sponsor for this system.) Larry Appalucci and Dick Panico administer the system. The sports presently utilizing ROCO are Pickleball and Tennis. These sports utilize the same courts and the system ensures that people aren't showing up at the wrong times. Table Tennis conflicts with meetings at the Community Center such as the Computer Club and Bridge Club. Members access the program from their home computers and sign up knowing when the courts are open. To be 100% effective, members should use ROCO whenever they want a court or table! This way when people use their computer to find a court, they will see whether it is available or in use.

Funding HMSG Activities: Don Evons presented the reasons for the HMSG to pursue funds. Besides paying for our own supplies, it reduces the burden of the leaders to act as "tax" collectors and shows our willingness to cover some of the expenses. The approach would follow in the example of the pool which raises \$10,000 - \$15,000 a year and is funded an additional \$50,000 by the HM Master's Association (MA).

Club News in the Hershey Mill Guide & Digest: Roseanne Havird reviewed the process that Activity Leaders use to place their Club News in the Hershey Mill Guide & Digest. Articles of 100 words or less are submitted to Roseanne. They are published in the HM Guide & Digest 2 months later. To date we've had 3 articles submitted a month. Longer HMSG articles are submitted to Don Evons.

HMSG Election for Officers: Don Evons emailed all members the form "Candidate Filing Petition For the Office". These are nomination forms for the positions of President and Treasurer. Term of Office is for two years. The last day to file is on July 13 and petitions should be given to Roseanne Havird. Elections will be held at the Fall meeting on September 13th.

Wish List: Two years ago we presented a 'wish list' to the Board. Some of the items have been funded i.e. shed, tennis ball machine ramp, lowering of the fences, beautification of the courts, and warming room for Paddleball. Another list needs to be completed. Within the next 60 days Don will make a presentation to the HM Finance Committee of what we would like to see in Hershey Mill. (Please submit your thoughts.)

New Business: A bus trip to the US Open was introduced, which would take place in late August/early September. Twenty-five (25) people are needed to rent a bus. If space is available after HM residents are registered, an invitation will be extended to residents of Wellington and guests.

New Ideas: 1) Billiards is part of the HMSG. The discussion centered around the lack of space available for the one billiard table that we have. Presently Joe Silo has a traveling team. 2) We need to find ways to raise revenue for sporting expenses. "Self Funding" as mentioned above was the only suggestion offered.

Flyer from 2013: a replacement FLYER is needed that showcases all the activities supported by the HMSG. If anyone knows of a professional artist who may be willing to give of their time and talents for this let Don know.

Don asked for a motion to adjourn. Joe Carrone made a motion and it was seconded by Marilyn Flynn. Meeting was adjourned at 3:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Roseanne M Havird, Secretary