



HERSHEY MILL SPORTS GROUP – FALL MEETING

September 13, 2017

Minutes

The Fall Meeting of the Hershey's Mill Sports Group (HMSG) was held on Wednesday, September 13 at 2:00 P.M. in the HM Community Center. Don Evons, President, called the meeting to order and Roseanne Havird recorded. Approximately 40 residents attended the meeting.

Flyers were distributed for the Fall events occurring from November – October. Allen Shaffer read Mary Lou Perry's changes to the Spring minutes which are:

“Mary Lou Perry suggested that the cost of balls for pickleball, table tennis and paddle be funded by the players of each respective sport.”

The changes were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Since Don Reade is recovering from surgery Don Evons read the Financial Report.

\$3251 – Since Spring

\$2562 – added from events since Spring

\$5813 – balance

In addition, a first payment of \$960 was received from Businesses which sponsor our events. As a result, we have \$6773 balance. (The Labor Day Event made \$300 of that amount.)

Facilities' Report:

John DeVol reported that he was grateful for the help given to him from HMSG members i.e.

- Members' Assistance with various changes around the tennis courts plus helping with grooming the courts which saved HMSG \$700.
- A 12-month review shows how facilities were used to support the teams:
 - 1) Storage Shed is now filled with equipment from parties.
 - 2) We're getting more use out of the ball machine due to longer cord.
 - 3) Appearance of the Tennis Courts have improved due to lowering the fence.
 - 4) Reducing the fence at the Pickleball Court improves visibility & socializing.
 - 5) The HM Landscaping has done an impressive job with the shrubbery at the entrance as well as a great job with the continued upkeep of the area.
 - 6) Shuffleboard resurfacing with coating has improved the appearance of the courts as has the cleaning up of the landscaping along the court's wall.
Activity on the shuffleboard courts has increased since the changes.
 - 7) New Storage rooms funded by the Master's Association is now also a warming room. A kitchen was donated by a HM resident who was upgrading.
 - 8) Bocce has a new larger bulletin board with 3 sections. This can also be used by Paddleball and Tennis players.
 - 9) HMSG Wish List for the next 12 months:

Pickleball: “We need more money”. At Ocean City, NJ it has been noticed that they have 12 new pickleball courts with professional netting. (40 players play every day with a waiting list). Should we have professional netting?

New chairs are needed for the pickleball courts.

Tennis: We suggest a Fold-Up Awning next to courts. We could use this on on Courts 3 & 6.

Visits to other Tennis Facilities: Ten other tennis facilities were visited which reveal that our facilities are at the bottom of the list. We recommend that gravel be placed next to the tennis courts facing Chandler Rd. Foliage needs to be planted next to the tennis fence.

Pagoda: In conjunction with the Master’s Association, a pagoda next to the 4 & 5th court would provide seating and shade for “watchers”.

Shuffleboard courts have no shade. The court still needs to be raised up and improved.

Bocce: There are 80 active players. We function with 2 courts whose appearance appears good but are less than professionally laid courts. Three (3) courts are needed.

Summary: Overall these suggestions are an intention to move our whole sports area up a grade or two.

Don mentioned three (3) lists of sport members: 1) Active members 2) Total Amount of members who played at least once in a sport 3) Future members of HMSG. In Bocce there are two different lists: 80 who are competing and 240 who signed their list.

Questions from the Audience:

-If someone is involved in a sport are they a member of HMSG?

Answer: No, not officially; however, yes, once they have asked to be placed in the directory.

Election of Officers:

Don Evons and Reade Nimick are the only candidates whose names have been submitted for the positions of President and Treasurer. They will assume these responsibilities for next two years.

Fall Social:

Don announced for Sharon Kope, who was not present, that Tom Barret will be entertaining us at the October 14 HMSG Dinner and Dance at the County Club.

Gail Habbersett will be joining the social committee.

CPR Course: Barb Trimble passed around a ‘sign up’ sheet for the course. The members who participated in the summer reported that the CPR course teaches more than the method. Don reported that during his playing days, of the three players who received CPR, (2 of three) recovered. Fortunately, all three times a doctor happened to be nearby and applied CPR.

Davis Cup: George Groff reported we’d like to have the David Cup here at HM. Four countries will be represented: Great Britain, France, Australia, USA. The event would take place from 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. This year the timing is condensed for the purpose of reducing wasted time between events. To complete the agenda 48 people are needed. All levels of skill are represented: Mix doubles; separate

Women and Men's teams. Food served will be representative of the players' countries. John DeVol will be organizing things and informing us of the day's agenda and responsibilities.

Paddleball: John McGinty and Kay Ricker will organize the play on September 26. Food and social will be available to all and everyone is invited.

Data Base: Anne Foley organized the condensing of various emails lists to one. The next goal is to create a directory of all 2600 residents. The reason for the directory is to identify who participates in what sports and familiarize everyone with what activities are available.

New Residents: Who communicates to them? A suggestion was made to identify a HMSG Welcoming Committee person in each Village who would do this. Overall, the audience felt that communicating the HMSG events/activities through sport articles in the HM Guide & Digest is an effective way of doing this. However, a Sports Summary could be created that stated: "Here's what we do"; "Here's who the contact people are."

There is a New Comer's Club at HM where such a list could be distributed. Distribution of HMSG at Village 'get-togethers' is another idea.

Fitness Center: This past January, Wellington approached us to use them as our fitness center. In the past there was discussion on this topic. This past Spring a committee was formed to study the proposal "Wellington Fitness".

They determined that the pool was too small and the fitness center was not up to par.

Also, parking is an issue at Wellington. The committee was renamed "Hershey's Mill Fitness".

Tom Barrett, co-chair of the committee, reported, in response to a questions:

"Can we find a place inside HM to have a Fitness Center?"

Answer: Five Realtors were interviewed and 3 out of the 5 stated we have lost sales due a lack of a fitness center. Don submitted a budget to the Master's Assoc. finance committee and we're waiting their response.

Another comment on the Fitness Center issue was:

Joe Bove of the finance committee and MA board member reported the following: "It's a complicated issue". A survey was developed to get new residents' input.

Their consensus: "That not having fitness did not deter them from moving to HM.

Actually, we don't have a problem selling homes here. People come here for what we do have." Another objection raised to the fitness center area was:

"We are located close to 4 very good fitness centers and we can't match their sophistication." If we did it would take a great deal of money".

Volunteers are Needed: Every morning at 8:30 a.m. day-old-bread is picked up at Giant to be delivered to Safe Harbor, Salvation Army and the Senior Center in West Chester. The whole process takes about an hour. As volunteers leave HM this effort is falling apart. We need new volunteers. Food gets thrown away. A 'sign-up-sheet' was passed among the audience asking their help.

HMSG Articles for the HM Guide & Digest: Roseanne Havird reported an average of 3 to 4 articles of 100 words are submitted each month by Activity Leaders. Longer articles of 300 words or more also are submitted. Pictures submitted must be high definition and 2 megabits in size.

Bike Club: 7 Bikers recently rode to Philadelphia's South Street a distance of 25 miles. Future trips are planned for bicycling a distance of 25 miles.

Men's Inner Club: Bill Henderson announced his retirement as captain of the team, after many years. Don thanked him for his service. Bill reported that they participate in a 10-team league. Our HM team has no 'feeder group' like the other teams have so some of our matches had to be forfeited, for lack of players. Recently new residents are playing and -making the HM team much stronger.

Tennis: Dave Clewell reported that Pick-up Tennis started with 32 players. Nine (9) players are non-residents. Everyone plays. Two courts are used every day at 4:00 p.m. The women's participation has dwindled. Lisa Groff coordinates the women's group on Tuesday afternoon using one court. The question is "how to attract more women." One way would be to invite HM residents to watch the inner club play.

Don reported that US Tennis Association contacted us to use our courts and to use them as a home base. Don wrote a letter to the Master's Association regarding creating a team with 50% non-residents. This needs the approval of the HM Master's Association. The team housed at HM would play 9 matches using 3 courts for 2 hours in the afternoon when our courts would not be used. Recently 3 HM players who play on a local USTA team won the Regional League and moved on to sectionals.

Pickleball: Is the most popular sport in HM. The sport, attracting new players, is alive and well. A clinic is held in the Spring. Most new people have skills and aren't in need of much Instruction.

Davis Cup: This will be lots of fun! Teams will use the National Anthems of their country. Players will be rated so team play will be evenly matched.

Pickleball: The 2nd Wednesday of each month is Pizza time. Everyone loves it. New comers are welcome! Three residents help with the program: Jack Hamilton, Bill Hamilton and Roger Karr. The game is played on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Friday's and Saturdays. Wednesday play is at 5:30 p.m. There are about 6 – 12 players who play during the winter.

Bocce: Joe Carrone reports that the finals for this sport are on Saturday, 9/16 at 4:00 P.M.

Table Tennis: Tables are available now on weekends and are set up on the 2nd floor of the community center. On September 21, members will meet at Bellingham for a match.

ROCO: The computerized court scheduling system was used for Tennis, Table Tennis and Pickleball. It was considered by many to be successful since players could see when courts were available and when there was "open play" in which they could participate, without leaving their homes. Many took advantage of actually reserving their courts from home. Perhaps Bocce will be added next year.

FUNDING PROPOSAL: A Finance Committee was formed in the summer. When the HMSG was first formed Don Evons had to write a check for \$500 to support the Fall Social, since there was only \$200 in the checking account, to fund the event. Now we have almost \$6000 in the bank. There are four (4) reasons for funding:

- 1) Support expendables that sports groups use i.e. tips for shuffleboard cues, pickleballs, etc.
- 2) Capital improvements: The Master's Assoc. appreciates our participation to partially finance projects i.e. the flag pole expenses were shared: \$250 – HMSG/ \$250 – Pool/ and the rest from the HMMA.
- 3) Maintenance: We are still waiting for Spring Maintenance. If we had extra money we would have people hired to do the work in the season it is needed.

4) It has been suggested that individual players shouldn't pay for supplies. Therefore, depending upon the health of HMSG Treasury, HMSG could contribute to the sport say \$100.

Where does money come from? In an informal survey the most popular suggestions were:

- 1) Volunteers would pay \$10 a year which would belong to HMSG.
When a sport like pickleball needed money, the HMSG could only pay the 1st \$100.
- 2) Sponsorship: Wagner Realtor sponsored ROCO for the 2017 season. We also have a sponsor for Labor-Day Davis Cup and Fall Social.

Question: Will outsiders pay any?

We haven't come to any conclusion of how to get outsiders to pay.

Don responded to this last question by "yes, outsiders will pay and it will be higher. We want people to come here. How we handle this might discourage people from coming here."

John DeVol motioned to: "Implement funding proposal" The motion was seconded and the vote from participants was unanimous, in favor.

Community Day: October 22 is Community Day. There will be Open House at HM from 1-4.

We need volunteers to play so visitors can see us playing and volunteers at the Community Center to talk to visitors. (80-100 people will visit.) A package needs to be prepared for distribution to visitors.

Don Evons made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Roseanne M Havird, Secretary