



**HERSHEY'S MILL SPORTS GROUP-FALL MEETING  
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, September 11, 2018  
Hershey's Mill Community Center**

President Don Evons opened the meeting with a moment of silence to remember the extensive loss of life in New York City on September 11, 2001. Previous minutes were approved and seconded.

**Treasurer's Report: Gary Habbersett (Attachment #1)**

In addition, a special "Thank You" was given to our Sponsors: John Clarke and Wagner Realty and to all who contributed via their contributions to the HMSG.

**Master Association:** Karl Grentz, formally Liaison to the Board for HMSG, is now President of the Master Association. Karl stated that the MA has eminent plans for auditing and updating each group's activities four times a year. He outlined:

1. The necessity for using ROCO. All 1720 residents of HM are essentially members of the sports group because all activities are available to every resident in Hershey's Mill. Considerable complaints have been raised about the requirement to use ROCCO. John commented that we have a consensus on bocce that both "league" play and "social" bocce need and can coexist. Joe Carrone representing League and Carrol Thompson representing "social" will work our specific usage allocation. Karl indicated that if league plays best with the old paper system let it be. ROCO can be used for "social" play.
2. The HMMA approved a new Electronic community-wide communication system which will improve the leadership's ability to communicate with its members. Benefits will be:
  - Our emails won't go into SPAM.
  - Each activity will have its own list of members which can be edited easily.
  - We'll be able to send out surveys, RSVPs etc.
  - We'll know who got emails and who didn't open them.

Sherry and Bill Kane will meet with the leaders of all groups by the end of this year and oversee the 'roll out' of the new software in the following order:

- The HMMA Board
- Village Presidents
- Sports group leaders.

Training in the new system will be available as well as the formation of a new Technology Committee. The software committee plans to review the HM website to determine if it's possible to simplify usage.

**Facilities Report:** John De Vol (Attachment #2)

John presented his report and thanked the HM Master Association for the additions and improvements of 2018. A new Facilities Manager is needed since John is now the HMSG President. See the Facilities Report for information on how HMSG spends their money.

**Current Update on Facilities:**

- The decision to build the Tennis Pavilion and give the players shade came from The HMMA.
- a second table, customized to the size of the room, was added to Billiards. The room is now the exclusive use of pool players. The addition allows Pool members, whose members doubled in two years to expand the schedule to two teams (Teams A&B).
- Tennis court accident: a non-resident player broke their arm on the short fence. This made us aware of the spikes on the Tennis fence and it now covered. Pickle ball Courts also received the same fence protection.
- We have a verbal commitment to completely landscape the area around the tennis courts.
- A wish list was presented to the Finance Committee of the MA on June. It included:
  - Lighting on the Bocce Courts for evening play
  - Shade provided for the Shuffleboard court.
  - Consider a 3<sup>rd</sup> bocce court in the present area
- Karl Grentz stated that an outside consultant firm will be hired to determine the best place to put the new courts or to refurbish the present ones.
- Paddle Ball Courts: Pickle ball has grown to replace Paddle ball in HM. What do we do with the Paddleball courts now there is little use. (Consultants will look at this also.) Efforts were made through emails in the past by members to attract people to Paddle Ball but no one expressed interest in the sport. There has been about 2 years of relative inactivity on the courts.

**Membership Report:** Bob Bevan (Attachment #3)

Bob Bevan reported the results of the Membership Drive.

**HMSG Election Results**

On July 11, 2019 the nominations were closed for the position of president of the HMSG. John De Vol was the only candidate. Don closed the meeting with a final vote sealing his retirement. He asked for a motion to elect the incoming President, John De Vol. The motion was entered and seconded.

## **Open Meeting: New President**

### **John De Vol's Report**

President John De Vol opened the 2<sup>nd</sup> portion of the meeting with a remembrance of the sudden, sad loss of Bruce Sellers who was so much a part of the improvements of our sport facilities. We have lost an enormous asset to Hershey's Mill.

John congratulated Don for his 13 years of dedicated service, six as president to HMSG. During those years Don successfully grew the HM residents' use of our sport facilities. He and Phyllis began promoting tennis by writing a total of 75 articles on tennis. He took on the task to replace the hard surface courts and supported the installation of bocce as a sport.

In addition, John highlighted Don's efforts over the years in lobbying for:

- table tennis (supported by Allan Shaffer)
- pickle ball (started by Roger Carr.)
- bike club (started by Seth French and now run by Jeff Smith)

John has a new vision for the HMSG leadership which entails additional "vice presidents" and building more committees to handle HMSG's various decisions.

### **Non-Residents' usage of HM Tennis and golf facilities:**

Usage of the HM Tennis facilities by non-members occurs because of our residents' membership in the inter-club tennis matches and the USTA (US Tennis Assoc.) matches which take place here. The MA Board will review the policies on:

- use of facilities by non-residents
- use of the programs by HM Renters
- charging usage fees to personal guests of residents.

John asked for input on repeating our successful EXPO which was held in May 2019. A proposal was made for more frequent meetings between Activity Leaders and the MA Representative. Karl Greutz assured everyone that he always meets with the leaders of HMSG, attends their meetings and presents their needs to the HMMA. Residents who do not feel that their concerns are listened to by HMSG can go directly to Karl. Although HMMA meetings are not open to residents, there are 'conduits' which bring information to this board. Karl is our primary conduit. HMSG's by laws as well as other organizations within the Mill need review and updating. Handout included our existing By Laws. Our agenda outlined several needs of HMSG's By Laws– 1. Definition of a member of HMSG, 2. Larger board of directors, and 3. Review of Amendment One which has never been approved by our association.

### **Finance Report:**

Bob Bevan reported on the Membership contributions for 2019. (See attached report #3) John De Vol and Judy Dale helped with the drive. Don Evon's efforts have grown the HM residents' participation in sports from 90 to 600 people and from one sport, Tennis, to providing

a variety of sporting activities.

**Questions around friends/visitors participating in HMSG activities**

Although there are no guest fees needed to participate in HMSG facilities, questions arose about the participation of friends and non-members joining in our activities. The non-residents represent a small fraction of the people involved. HM Teams want to participate in the USDA and that entails bringing in guests from this group. They remain a minority of those playing. However, the HMMA will take up “Guest Issues” by spring 2020.

A motion was made and seconded to form a By Laws review committee to meet the following week. Gorge Madden volunteered to represent pickle ball, and Joe Carrone agreed to represent Bocce. Dave Clewell declined and John said he would find someone to represent tennis. John is considering monthly HMSG leadership and a follow up leadership meeting was set for Wednesday Oct 23 at 3PM.

John called the meeting to a close.

Respectfully submitted,

Roseanne M. Havird  
Assisted by Carroll Thompson

Attachments (3)