



Hershey's Mill Sports Committee Meeting Minutes 4/21/25 @1:00 via Zoom

Attendees: Jack Bradley, Judy Dale, Mary Ann DeFalco, Sherry Kane, George Madden, Lynn Mander and Dave Nagurney. **Guests:** Dawn Kowalchuk George Earle, Jack Hamilton

Meeting Minutes Approval: Meeting minutes from 3/21/25 were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Lynn's advised that there is \$14,748.34 in the general sports account and \$2,221.42 in the bowling account. Outstanding checks from the general account total about \$2,250.

Old Business:

- The Committee revisited the pickleball resurfacing project and the proposed center straps for the nets. The Committee had approved the total project. However, in addition to the research and information previously provided by George M. and Jack B., the Committee invited Dawn and Jack H. to present their views on the center straps portion of the project. In addition to the national governing body not recommending center straps, Jack and Dawn had other concerns primarily on the negative effect that the drilling for the straps might have on the integrity of the courts. Also, given that only one court of eight deviates more than ¼" of regulation and three are at regulation, they question the benefit. On the other hand, the tennis courts have shown no damage from the installation of their center straps. If we are to have straps, doing it as part of the resurfacing is the best time. Also, while our pickleball program is generally recreational, the level of play is becoming more competitive. There was extensive discussion by the Committee including the option of putting straps only on some of the courts. After a very close vote of 4-3, the Committee voted to recommend that all courts be outfitted with center net straps as part of the resurfacing. Jack B. will write a presentation to the Board who makes the final decision as part of a capital improvement.
- George E. reported that the pavilion roof has been finished. HML has graded the area around the pavilion, and the new tables were assembled and placed next to the Pavilion. Umbrellas have been ordered for the tables; it is important that they be down when not in use. Electrical work needs to be completed once a permit is received from the township. Discussion regarding commemorative plaques on the tables was postponed for future meeting. This Committee will decide on a date for the ribbon cutting, perhaps in advance of the all-residents meeting and advise George who will take it to the MA Board. The Committee discussed the possibility of operating the Pavillion similar to the Sullivan

House. While there would be no charge for Village use or small resident sponsored gatherings, large gatherings (e.g. family reunions) sponsored by residents involving a rental for several hours and use of the club amenities would require a rental fee. This could be a source of income for the Sports Committee and will be further discussed at a future meeting.

- Sherry reported that the price for name tags has increased to \$13 each. Today was the first day to order; orders close on May 14. The Name Tags will be available for pick up at the Information Tent on Memorial Day.
- Memorial Day planning continues. The MA association approved a food truck from 11-2 and will pay the difference if the minimum spend of \$1,000 is not met. The truck will be parked by the bocce courts. No additional tables will be set up for the food truck. There will be 2 drawings – a 50/50 (\$1 each or 6 for \$5) and a raffle for various items (\$2 each or 3 for \$5). Jack B. will send an email to all sports leaders one week in advance to request information on their needs for that day. Feather flags will be displayed, and the Sports Committee will provide water, donor TBD. There was some pushback as to why the Memorial Day event is no longer an all-residents' party. It is too much work for this Committee whose task is to run sports not community-wide social events. The Committee will evaluate how this year's event goes.

New Business:

- Sherry requested that a date be set for the annual all-residents meeting as required in the bylaws. The Committee agreed on Thursday, May 15, 11am at the new sports pavilion. Tables will be set up for all the sports leaders to showcase their programs. There will be no business discussed. The ribbon cutting ceremony for the new pavilion may take place at 10:30, just before the meeting.
- Sherry reported that Kinetics is working with Dawn to develop a schedule of Kinetics programs for all residents. These clinics will take place all summer, even during the resurfacing of the pickleball courts, and hopefully through the winter months.
- The bike clinic is scheduled for May 10. Residents can bring in their bikes for evaluation and also learn about the sport and about required maintenance for your bicycle. In addition, biking accessories will be for sale. Proceeds are donated to the Sports Committee.
- George E. reminded the Committee that any expenditures for capital improvements must be submitted to the MA Board. This Committee should not pay for such expenses with the plan to submit to the Board for reimbursement.

Facilities:

- Jack reported that the canopies will be installed at the new bocce courts later this week. The courts will also be groomed.
- Pickle ball and paddle ball areas will be reviewed for needed repairs and maintenance.
- There has been no definite answer on the question of a third fan in the pickleball pavilion.

- Jack B. reported that the mats in the old bocce area had to be removed because they were disintegrating,

Requests:

- Platform tennis submitted a request for summer balls at a cost of \$120-150. The Committee approved the request.
- The new net will be installed on the tennis court #4, and all the courts will be groomed as well.
- Judy reported on her discussions with the tennis leadership on their request for a practice wall. Marie Derby surveyed the tennis players who overwhelmingly expressed intent to use it. The pickleball practice wall was originally a tennis wall until that court was converted from tennis to pickleball. It will provide a different and easier practice opportunity than the ball machine. The wall would be available for all HM residents to try the game or refine their skills if considering a return to tennis. If approved, they envision the wall to be in the rear of Court #1(I'll check that) in front of the pickleball wall. Their alternative proposal was for a less expensive temporary practice screen. This Committee and the tennis leadership agreed after research that the screen would be an unsatisfactory solution as they are not stable. The Committee agreed that this request should be submitted to MA Board as part of the 2026 capital improvements budget.

Dates:

- 5/18/25 – HM Spring Community Open House 1:00-4:00 pm
- 5/19/25 – Next HMSC meeting 1:00 pm
- 5/26/25 – Memorial Day

The meeting adjourned at 3PM.

Judy Dale, Secretary