**Meeting Conducted remotely via video conference**

**January 19, 2021**

Present: Commissioners

Glenn Anderson, State of Michigan

Karin Cooper, Houghton County

Dave Geisler, Village of Calumet

Gerald Juntunen, at-large

Dan Jamison, at-large

Keith Koppernolle, Calumet Township

John Sullivan, Franklin and Quincy Townships

Absent: None

Present: Executive Director

Sean Gohman (also recording Secretary)

Present: National Park Service

Wendy Davis, Superintendent

John Arnold, Historical Architect

Present: Guests

Patty Cobin, A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum

Karen Hintz, Keweenaw County Historical Society

Lindsay Hiltunen, Archivist, Michigan Tech Archives

Dean Juntunen, Ontonagon County Historical Society

Jean Pemberton, Copper Range Historical Society

Katelyn Rader, UP Regional Director, Office of U.S. Senator Gary C. Peters

Sarah Scarlett, Michigan Technological University

Robert Langseth, former commissioner, Keweenaw Heritage Center

Note: Attendees noted above as “present” were in virtual attendance for the duration of the

meeting.

**Call to Order**

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was opened

remotely at 1:01 p.m., Tuesday, January 19, 2021.

**Approval of Agenda**

Motion to amend agenda to include officers elections under item 3a and approve the Keweenaw

Heritage Grant Program under item 2. Moved by Keith Koppernolle and seconded by Dan

Jamison to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously. (7/0).

**Approval of Minutes of April 21, 2020.**

Moved by Karin Cooper and seconded by Glenn Anderson to table an approval of the minutes of

November 21, 2020, until the next regular meeting of the Advisory Commission. Motion

carried unanimously. (7/0).

**Superintendent’s Report**

Superintendent Wendy Davis provided an overview of recent news and summaries of key

accomplishments of the various park divisions.

Davis reported that the park continues to operate under the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic,

with all staff primarily teleworking. All staff can be reached by phone or email.

Davis shared four primary goals of Keweenaw NHP:

• Keweenaw NHP is a recognized leader in the preservation of landscapes, buildings,

collections, stories, and sustainable practices.

• Keweenaw NHP educational programming is an essential part of K-12 education in an

11-county area.

• Visitors, local residents, and others who come to Keweenaw NHP and the Keweenaw

Heritage Sites know (or discover) that they are in a national park.

• Keweenaw NHP and surrounding communities support and are supported by each other

in preservation efforts and show this value through action and in an expressed sense of

shared ownership.

Recently, Keweenaw NHP staff met to discuss progress on these goals and are currently putting

together a report on this progress. Davis hopes to have this ready for the next meeting.

Keweenaw NHP put in 53 projects to be funded in outgoing years. Still waiting on what will be

funded for this year, and should have that information for the next meeting. The C&H

Warehouse project is still ongoing to transform the building into a curatorial facility with Isle

Royale National Park and Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

The visitor’s center remains closed until further notice, with operational review taking place

every 15 days to determine the viability of reopening. The visitors’ center is ordinarily closed in

winter due to staffing shortages anyway, and hope that it can reopen in the spring.

**Executive Director’s Report**

Executive Director Sean Gohman reported on how the goals of the Advisory Commission were

supported during the quarter.

**Advise the National Park Service at Keweenaw National Historical Park on park planning,**

**preservation, interpretation, and operational matters.**

The National Park Service is still developing updated National Historic Landmark nominations

for Calumet and Hecla Mining Company Historic District and Quincy Mining Company Historic

District. Over two years of work is now approaching completion. The Quincy nomination is

awaiting a public information meeting, which will be scheduled once Covid-related

complications for in-person meetings are mitigated, while the Calumet nomination is in its final

draft phase. These updated nominations will assist the Park in its management of the two Park

units, inform park boundary adjustments as needed, and more accurately capture these districts

as they are today.

**Develop the Keweenaw Heritage Sites Program into a consortium of fully sustainable sites.**

The Commission, in cooperation with Keweenaw National Historical Park, conducted its first

webinar/workshop for Heritage Site partners. The topic was all things Zoom. How to set up and

run a meeting, as well as the various features the software provides for organizations needing to

meet remotely. Two volunteers: Katie Urban from Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park,

and Kady Gehrke an undergraduate student from Michigan Tech, ran the webinar. The

Commission would like to thank them for their efforts. The webinar was recorded and posted to

a YouTube channel hosted by the Advisory Commission and is accessible to any channel visitor.

Our next webinar/workshop will be announced and scheduled shortly.

**Develop partnerships that provide visitors with a cohesive, accessible, and engaging**

**national park experience along the entire length of the Keweenaw.**

After two successful years of lead-based paint abatement at the Quincy Smelting Works, the

Commission will be postposing further abatement work for 2021. The Commission will be reevaluating and expanding the scope of the ongoing project to account for archival materials and

artifacts along with interior and exterior surfaces (which had been the focus of the project so far).

Additionally, the Commission will be installing a series of movable interpretive signs on the

smelter property to help orient visitors both inside and outside the property fence line. The goal

is to have these installed by the start of the summer tourism season.

The Commission has pledged $5,000 for the repair and updating of the entrance sign to the

Quincy Mine Hoist Association site. The south-facing side of the sign has degraded significantly

due to road salt and weathering, and this repair should minimize those weathering impacts.

Promote a historic preservation ethic and emphasize heritage awareness.

The Commission is happy to announce that they will be conducting our annual Heritage Grant

Program. A minimum of $115,000 in grants will be awarded this spring, with a final amount and

application process to be announced shortly. Due to covid-related complications, many of last

year’s grants have had to be modified, and this year’s round of awarded grants will also allow for

some flexibility as needed.

For the last few years, the Commission has offered reimbursement for schools transporting

students by bus to Park resources and Heritage Sites. Due to covid-related complications, the

Commission will be postponing this service until indoor services resume for the Park and all

Heritage Sites, and schools deem field trips safe.

**Develop the Commission into a sustainable operating organization.**

Recently, I spoke with several aides to Senator Peters regarding the Commission’s ongoing

proposal/request for an increase of its annual authorization. The Commission is not appropriated

funds but is rather “authorized” to request up to $250,000 per year. The Commission is looking

to increase that request to up to $1,000,000 per year and have been working with Senator Peters

to create a bill to achieve that goal. I was informed that the bill was unable to go forward in

2020, but that the Commission should continue to push for this increase – and perhaps including

other members of Congress – into 2021.

The Advisory Commission would like to welcome John Arnold to the Keweenaw National

Historical Park’s staff. Arnold has been hired as the park’s new historic architect, replacing John

Rosemurgy, who transitioned to the Park Service’s Midwest regional office last year. Welcome

aboard, John. We look forward to working with you.

John Arnold, new Historical Architect for Keweenaw NHP, introduced himself to the

Commission and public. Arnold is excited to work with everyone and open for questions.

**Commission Committees and Projects**

**Announcements / Executive**

Commissioner Geisler requested motions to elect officers: Karin Cooper as Secretary, John

Sullivan as Treasurer, Glenn Anderson as Vice Chair, and Dave Geisler as Chair. Copper

motioned and Anderson Seconded. Motion and elections approved 7/0.

**Budget / Finance**

Moved by Jamison and seconded by Sullivan to approve bills in the amount of $14,348.38, plus

wages and tax payments of $12,129.60 for $26,477.98 total. Motion carried unanimously.

(7/0)

**Other reports from Commissioners**

John Sullivan reported for the Copper Country Firefighters History Museum. A busy summer

saw a doubling in visitation and revenues especially with newly installed exhibits that allowed

for self-guided tours. The Quincy Mine Hoist Association’s manager, Glenda Bierman, is on

medical leave. Tom Wright is acting manager at this time. QMHA has a Keweenaw Heritage

Grant to repair the 1918 Hoist House. Awaiting approval from SHPO so they can accept bids for

the spring.

Gerald Juntunen asked when the Quincy Smelter’s lead-based paint abatement could be

completed in lieu of not continuing this project in summer 2020. Gohman informed the

Commission that Mannik-Smith Group acts as our environmental consultants and works with the

Commission closely to meet the environmental concerns listed at the smelter. Currently, new

projects related to lead-based paint are being worked on to address not simply the buildings, but

also the artifacts and historic documents and materials. One project, to address materials in the

attic of the Office building, has been put in for out years. Superintendent Davis clarified that

work is slow due to the Commission’s annual $250,000 authorization, meaning work done at the

smelter can only happen in roughly $130,000 increments, including yearly mobilization costs.

Davis stated that an increase in this authorization could more quickly address these issues and

move the timeline up.

John Sullivan noted that there are other avenues from funds as well. National Park funds outside

the Commission’s authorization, for example. Gohman stated that projects are in that can access

money from the Abandoned Mine Lands program as well.

Dan Jamison has been approached to join the Quincy Mine Hoist Association board. Jamison

also acquired a Matterpoint 3-D camera and is interested in documenting historic resources for

the purposes of virtual tours, etc.

Dave Geisler noted that the west side of the former JC Penney’s building has been stabilized and

the building has been sealed with a reinforced roof.

Comments from Legislators or Legislative Staff

Katelyn Rader, Upper Peninsula Regional Director for Senator Gary Peters’ Office, commented

that Sen. Peters did introduce a bill to increase the Advisory Commission’s authorization but it

did not make it to a vote. Peters would like to re-introduce this bill and would like to see a

companion bill introduced in the House by Rep. Bergman. Conversations are happening at this

time.

**Comments from Keweenaw Heritage Site Representatives**

Lindsay Hiltunen of the Michigan Tech Archives’s traveling exhibit Becoming the Pride of the

Upper Peninsula is transitioning to an online form as well. Look forward to a press release with

more information. The archives is accepting appointments for research online or over the phone.

Hours for appointments are Tuesday and Thursday 1-5. Please make appointments at least 24

hours in advance. The Archives, along with the Northern Michigan University Archives, has

received a NHPRC grant to further the UPLINK project. This is a digital preservation program to

develop an administrative structure to help small community heritage sites to digitize materials.

Michigan History Day is March 16. Hiltunen will be reaching out for volunteer judges soon. The

archives can be reached at 906-487-2505 or copper@mtu.edu.

Jean Pemberton, updating on the Copper Range Historical Society, informed the Commission

that the board has been meeting over Zoom. They are meeting with Painesdale Mine & Shaft

regarding information that could assist the organization in their ongoing interpretive activities.

Bob Langseth, representing the Keweenaw Heritage Center, informed the Commission that they

are looking to expand their work on the Women of the Keweenaw to go along with a recent

publication on the topic. The Center is also interested in a Spring Garden program for the

community, and will be discussing those plans in the coming weeks. Langseth was also excited

to hear that the Bus Grants program will continue.

Dean Juntunen, representing the Ontonagon County Historical Society, stated that the museum

had a mold outbreak. The front half of the building has been addressed with the back half to be

addressed next month. Offsite storage has been acquired in Mass City with climate control to

help with the volume of materials on hand as they are moved and then reinstalled this spring. The

Society is moving away from docent interpretation at the museum and towards self-guided

experiences with clear museum displays.

Karen Hintz informed that the Keweenaw County Historical Society has been closed. Hoping

they will be open for 2021 tourist season (to be decided in March). Moving towards securing

exhibits in case self-guided tours are required due to lack of docents.

Patty Cobin representing the Seaman Mineral Museum informed that the museum has been open

since July 1st with covid protocols.

**Comments from the Public**

Sarah Scarlett, representing Michigan Tech’s Department of Social Sciences, informed the

Commission that the Keweenaw Time Traveler is undergoing a redesign to make for an easier

online user interface. Look for invites to an upcoming design charette. Also currently digitizing

and mapping C&H employment cards in cooperation with the Michigan Tech Archives.

Hopefully this will be available to the public sometime next year.

**Motion to Adjourn**

Moved to adjourn by Sullivan, and seconded by Anderson at 1:52 p.m. Motion carried

unanimously. (7/0).

**Next Meeting**

Monday, April 19, 2021.