**Meeting Conducted remotely via internet video conference**

**April 21, 2020**

Present: Commissioners

Amy Berglund, at-large

Karin Cooper, Houghton County

Dave Geisler, Village of Calumet

Keith Koppernolle, Calumet Township

Larry Lankton, at-large

Scott MacInnes, State of Michigan

John Sullivan, Quincy and Franklin Townships

Absent: None

Present: Executive Director

Sean Gohman

Present: National Park Service

Wendy Davis, Superintendent

Absent: Recording Secretary

John Arnold

Present: Guests

None

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

meeting.

**Logistics & Greetings**

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

remotely at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 21, 2020.

**Review of Agenda**

Executive Director Sean Gohman presented the agenda for review by the Commission. No

comments noted.

**Approval of Minutes of January 28, 2020**

Moved by Dave Geisler and seconded by John Sullivan to approve the minutes as presented.

**Commission Finances**

Gohman presented the financial statements and quarterly bills, from January 29, 2020, to April

20, 2020 to the Commission for review.

Moved by Sullivan and seconded by Larry Lankton to approve bills.

Copper Country Preservation Meeting

**Approval of Minutes of January 28, 2020**

Moved by Geisler and seconded by Amy Berglund to approve the CCP minutes as presented.

Motion carried unanimously. (7/0).

Treasurer’s Report

Moved by Sullivan and seconded by Geisler to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented.

Motion carried unanimously. (7/0).

Gohman reported that over the past quarter, CCP received a donation for Miscowaubic Club and

passed an Americana Foundation grant through to Real People Media to run the Red Jacket

Jamboree show.

Moved by Geisler and seconded by Berglund to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. (7/0).

**Superintendent’s Updates**

Operations/ Covid -9 Response

Superintendent Wendy Davis reported that all park staff have been working remotely since

March 15th

. Preparations are underway for the possibility of an open summer season, though it is

not clear at present when or in what manner this will take place. Davis noted that the guiding

principle is the safety of park staff, volunteers, partners, and visitors. While it isn’t possible to

close the entire park, given its nature, it is likely that the Visitor’s Center will remain closed past

its usual opening date over Memorial Day weekend. Finally, Davis reported that both the

Smackdown and Copper Traces have been canceled this year, but is hopeful that both can be

held in 2021.

**Projects Report**

Superintendent Davis reported that while teleworking, there are daily (virtual) management team

meetings and weekly park staff meetings. Projects underway include the Warehouse No.1

rehabilitation, for which the park will be seeking public comment later this year; the finalization

of permanent park boundaries; and how to structure the provision of technical assistance to

heritage sites equitably. It is not currently clear if it will be possible for a Youth Crew to work

this year or not. Seasonal interpretive hires, fewer in number than is usual, will be primarily

working on digital outreach. Finally, Davis emphasized that park staff remain fully available to

help with technical assistance to Heritage Sites.

**General Updates/ Discussion**

Submittal of Ex. 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.**

Nothing to report.

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

Gohman reported that he has been in correspondence with personnel at all Heritage Sites

regarding their planning for the season, and noted that there is a range of capacity and readiness

across the Sites to operate safely vis-à-vis Covid-19 concerns. Gohman noted also that he has

been emphasizing the availability of the park’s staff to the Sites, in terms of technical assistance,

including the possibility of helping to develop virtual tours.

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

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

The second phase of an ongoing lead-based paint abatement project at the Quincy Smelting

Works is slated to begin this summer. Gohman noted that some work areas planned for

abatement in this phase are currently serving as informal artifact storage (such as the attic of the

Office Building), and that it has been determined that focusing remediation efforts on areas

housing fewer artifacts will help to maximize the work accomplished during this phase.

**Promote a historic preservation ethic and emphasize heritage awareness.**

The Heritage Grants program deadline has been extended to May 1st, and Gohman reported that

the interest he has seen in the program this year is on par with prior years.

The Travel Grants program has been, unsurprisingly, seeing very little interest in these

challenging times.

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

Gohman reported that language earlier drafted by to Senator Gary Peters’ office, with the

assistance of the Advisory Commission, has been approved and finalized, and is awaiting

inclusion in an upcoming bill.

**Commissioner Reports**

Commissioner Berglund reported that MEDC is working on the development of emergency relief

grants and the expansion of existing grant programs, and suggested that Heritage Sites seeking

assistance may consider applying. Further, there may be additional grants available in the future

to aid in recovery, including federal funding towards “shovel-ready” projects.

**Comments from Legislators or Legislative Staff**

Nothing to report.

**Comments from Keweenaw Heritage Site Representatives**

Nothing to report.

**Comments from the Public**

Nothing to report.

**Motion to Adjourn**

Moved to adjourn by Sullivan, and seconded by Lankton at 11:36 a.m. Motion carried

unanimously. (7/0).

**Next Meeting**

August 5, 2020.