

**KEWEENAW NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MAY 16, 1995**

Present: Commissioners -

Burton Boyum, Quincy Mine Hoist Association
Clarence Dwyer, Houghton County Commissioner
Kathryn Eckert, State Historic Preservation Officer
Peder Kitti, Calumet
Paul Lehto, Calumet Township Supervisor

National Park Service –
Bill Fink, KNHP Superintendent
Ed Yarbrough, KNHP Historian
Al Hutchings, Midwest Regional Office

Recording Secretary - Lisa Dwyer

Absent: Commissioners -

Larry Lankton, Michigan Technological University
Mary Tuisku, Mayor, Hancock

Other Participants/Guests

Reverend Robert Langseth - Faith Lutheran Church, Calumet
Steve Albee - Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region (WUPPDR)

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was held Tuesday, May 16, 1995 in Calumet, Michigan at the park headquarters. The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Chair Paul Lehto. Attendance was taken. Bill Fink informed the Commission that Mary Tuisku was absent due to illness and Larry Lankton felt that fiscal integrity would be better served if he did not fly in for today's meeting since he would be moving back to Houghton from sabbatical leave in two weeks.

Introductions

Chair Paul Lehto asked the members of the audience to introduce themselves. Local community members, local officials, and business owners were in attendance as well as Joycelyn Miller representing Paul Tesanovich's office; Amy Wisti, Aide to Bart Stupak; and Ann Miller, Special Assistant to Democratic Leader Curtis Hertel for the U.P.

John Vertin and John Garbor were in attendance at today's meeting. They are nominees to replace Peder Kitti whose term has expired. Kitti does not wish to be reappointed.

Review of Minutes

The minutes of the February 7, 1995 KNHP Advisory Commission meeting were reviewed. On a motion by Clarence Dwyer and seconded by Kathryn Eckert the minutes were approved with no additions or corrections.

Superintendent's Report

Bill Fink informed the commission that a seasonal park ranger, graduate student Elizabeth Barrie from Indiana, will be hired this summer. Barrie worked as a purser at Isle Royal some years ago. She will report on May 22 in preparation for her position with the KNHP and cooperating sites. By early June, she will be doing a variety of guided walking tours. No details on these tours, yet.

An historic architect, Josef Balachowski, has been hired according to Fink. He has been with the Historic American Building Survey in the Washington D.C. office for the last seven years as a senior architect leading documentation projects around the country. He will report in early July.

Fink distributed a newsletter published by the National Park Foundation's Park Friends Initiative and authored by park service employee, Duane Pierson, who is on detail to the park foundation working on developing friends groups.

A local travelers information radio station will be located on 1610 on the AM band. The transmitter will be situated behind the Quincy Mine Hoist building. It will be used to broadcast daily activities and events at Keweenaw as well as Isle Royal activities. The Keweenaw Tourism Council will also broadcast current events. During the winter the Michigan State Police will have an opportunity to put out winter weather and travel reports The National Weather Service will be able to broadcast a brief reports, also.

Fink said he has been working on interim preservation ordinance for Calumet Township. A proposal has been submitted by Frank Gilbert who was at Keweenaw a few years ago. The paperwork has been started to hire him to come and develop an interim ordinance to be in place for the next few years until a permanent ordinance can be developed and adapted.

Seven members of the General Management Plan team were in from the National Park Service from May 8-12 to discuss alternatives to managing KNHP sites, structures, and other park resources, Fink reported. The meeting was not openly advertised, but instead 100 invitations were sent to interested groups or individuals. About 25 people attended, according to Fink.

Options for public access and visitor experience; management & ownership; and tools for management were discussed, Fink said. He distributed a report generated from the meeting pertaining to these strategies and alternative plans. The team will meet again in late June and early July and then will be back in late summer or early fall to formally introduce those alternatives to the public and start the review process.

News from the Central Region Field Office: Al Hutchings

Al Hutchings reported that his office is continuing to prod the Washington Office to name a new commissioner to replace Peder Kitt, but, he said, it's a long process because of other demands on the Secretary of Interior.

Hutchings reported that the NPS is still in the middle of reorganization. Bill Fink will be attending a meeting at the Kansas City office along with the other superintendents to take a look at progress on the reorganization plans. One of the things the superintendents will be looking at in reorganization is returning the power of decision-making and accountability to the superintendents and away from those in the regional office.

Hutchings was also asked if any decision has been made on where a Great Lakes Region district office will be located. He said the reorganization splits the region in half, he said, one being the Great Lakes Region and the other the Great Plains Region, however no decision has been made where the Great Lakes Regional will be located. For the short term both offices will remain in Omaha. Ann Arbor has been named as one of the possibilities because of former links there with the University of Michigan and other federal agencies located in the vicinity.

Legislation has been introduced which asks the park service to look at its own criteria for establishment and national significance, and then report to Congress those parks which are currently in the system that don't meet those criteria. This is suppose to take three years and if, after one more year, there are no parks discovered which don't meet those criteria or have failed to report, Congress will then appoint a commission similar to the base closure commission to come up with a list of park closures. Hutchings said he feels no parks are in danger, at least in the short term. He added that it would probably take 4 to 5 years before any park closure commission is named and there hasn't been any real activity, yet, along the lines of closures.

Bill Fink spoke on potential entrance park fees, saying if, in the General Management Plan for the KNHP, the park service acquires buildings and operates them as museums or visitor centers, fees could be charged at least in portions of the buildings. The cooperating sites will continue to have to charge fees to make their operations possible. He said the park and its cooperating sites could charge visitors a single park entrance fee, which would allow entrance to all of the sites.

Reverend Langseth asked if any thought has been given to KNHP and Isle Royal National Park acting as a joint operation. He said from both a business and a strategy viewpoint, for park survival, wouldn't a joint operation be added insurance for the park to be protected from possible closure. Bill Fink responded by saying there is actually quite a bit of joint operation already. He said he contracts with Isle Royal for administrative support services - about 10% of his budget goes there. He said one of the things parks are working toward in reorganization is something the park service calls "structured interdependence" among park units.

Research Historian's Report - Ed Yarbrough

The study is going well according to Yarbrough. He said the problem he has is that there is so much material it's hard draw the line and go on to the next topic. He said there is no way he can cover the history of the Keweenaw in his paper. Instead, he will do a broad overview and then have section in his paper suggesting where future research can be done. His target date for completion of his study is March 1996. He added that he and Bill Fink would be taking turns giving talks on the Ranger III cruises beginning mid June on topics associated with the Portage Canal and Torch Lake.

Chairman's Report - Calumet Area

Paul Lehto reported that an Inland Fisheries Grant has been filed for \$40,000 to put in fishing docks and culverts at the Swedetown Pond.

Negotiations are on going regarding the purchase of 766 acres from the Lake Superior Land to add to the Swedetown Recreation area. It will also include the railroad corridor coming back into Calumet to the train depot.

St. Anne's Church received a grant, which between the local share and the grant totals \$40,000 which will help with some of the repairs and weatherproofing of the building.

Lehto asked for opinions from both the public and commissioners on what should be done with the water tower, which is located where the new Calumet school is going to be built. The decision will be made by a few individuals (he did not say who) as to whether it will be torn down at the cost of about \$7,000 or moved and preserved for about \$15,000. Comments made were that it is not an early artifact - probably constructed in the 30s or 40s and it does not "punch through the skyline". Kathryn Eckert said she would like to look at it since she wasn't sure of its location.

Eckert asked about the progress of construction of the Sixth Street shopping complex being built by Tom

Moyle saying she still has concerns about the appearance of that development. Lehto said the site is cleared and one building permit for a storage rental building has been issued but it will be set back where it will be hidden by other development. Eckert expressed concern saying there is no accountability from the developer just a promise. Fink said if Moyle does not do it right he will incur the ire of the community. Yarbrough added that if Moyle doesn't follow through on what he says it could affect the other lots which he wants to develop in the future so to a degree there is some accountability. Fink also added that when the interim preservation ordinance is enacted this should strengthen accountability.

Reports from the Commission members

Boyum spoke about the Quincy Tramway saying that Quincy Mine Hoist Association engaged the services of Hitch Engineering to do a survey of a proposed right of way for the Quincy Tramway. A EDA grant has been applied for and Quincy is also looking at applying for a grant from the State of Michigan. If these grants come through, they should cover the cost of the \$600,000 tramway. Boyum continued, saying the tramway, aside from being an outstanding tourist attraction, would eliminate the need for the van to drive through East Hancock. The van carries visitors to and from the Hoist down to the Mine Tour. East Hancock residents in the past, Boyum said, have had objections to the van traveling through the neighborhood although the residents currently seem satisfied with the van and its route. In addition, the tramway would expand the number of tourists that Quincy could handle per day Boyum added. If all goes as planned, construction could start on the tramway this year.

Boyum then spoke of the Smelter site, saying that QMHA has leased the Smelter area to protect it from being sold off for development. The Smelter contains a "continuous casting machine" which he feels is important historically to Industrial Archaeology. Roofs of two key structures have collapsed, but there may be some state and local funds available to restore the roofs at a cost of \$14,118.

The question of hazardous wastes at the Smelter site and the potential for liabilities has created a need for a study of the area, Boyum said. Fink explained that a park service attorney who specializes in hazardous waste law will do a study and make a report of the Smelter area. Based on his findings, the park service will then decide if further study is needed in order to get a more definitive answer on whether it would be feasible to acquire the Smelter without major concern for any potential liabilities which could result from hazardous waste on the site. Fink also said he is looking at a strategy but he needs to study it more, whereby a non profit, non paid organization such as a "Friends" group would obtain ownership of the property and be the responsible party without too much risk for the group since it would be a non-profit, non-paid organization - sort of a "how do you get blood out of turnip" situation, Fink said.

Boyum reported on the Seaman Mineral Museum saying that the Museum's advisory board is studying the locations of the museum and its two future satellites in the Calumet and Quincy area. The core of the Museum would remain at Michigan Tech, but not necessarily where it is presently in the Electrical Engineering building. There has been discussions of forming a corporation which could receive gifts and donations made to the Museum.

Clarence Dwyer reported that while a trip down to Lansing on county commissioner business, he met with Senator Koivisto; Brian Swift, governor's aide to the UP; and Congressman Paul Tesanovich's aide to discuss the KNHP. They spoke of the park finances, he said, and there seems to be concern at the state level that state money spent now would be wasted if there is a park closure in the future. The state would like to see the National Park Service become more involved with funding. Kathryn Eckert commented that if there was a data base to show the evidence of the support that has been given to the KNHP, it would be a helpful tool in obtaining more support in the way of funding and grants from places like the state.

Dwyer also stressed the importance of making sure that future advisory commission meetings are well

publicized and to pay particular attention to notifying state officials.

Dwyer asked Fink about the 1996 KNHP budget. Fink said it is set at \$260,000, however, have Senator Levin and Congressman Stupak have asked him to prepare a tentative yearly budget totalling \$630,000 which would include money to hire a part-time administrator assistant, but more importantly, to begin about a quarter of million dollars a year in preservation assistance grants.

Peder Kitti said he has been encouraging business owners in the Calumet area to take advantage of any historical background connected with their business, which might be of interest to the public and in some manner, display this history.

Kathryn Eckert distributed the summary of the Housing Rehabilitation Workshop, which was held in February. The issue dealt with was funding housing rehabilitations in the Western Upper Peninsula and the review process Eckert's office undertakes when federal funds are spent along with WUPPDR funds. The report is out for public comment and another revision will be made.

Eckert said her office has reviewed an application and recommended the application for approval. It is to repair the stone steps leading from Hancock up to the Quincy site. The decision for funding will be made by a panel from the Department of Transportation.

Steve Albee reported that WUPPDR has been working on the Heritage Area concept trying to bring together a network of the different locations. He displayed a poster, resembling a map, of the Heritage Area and said WUPPDR is presently working on an economic diversification study that deals with the historic properties in the Heritage Area.

WUPPDR has received funding from the Bureau of History, Albee said, to do a survey of Calumet, Laurium, and Calumet Township and its industrial core. Within those locations are about 1500 properties, A presentation of the survey will be made May 25 to the real estate industry, financial institutions and title and appraisal companies. The survey is a very comprehensive definitive work, Albee said, and there will be good practical application from the material generated in the survey.

Public Comment/Questions

John Garbor reported that the Village of Calumet has applied for rehabilitation funds and has received an on going grant which is renewable annually upon application of \$150,000 per year to use as matching funds with local contributions. Local citizenry now has the opportunity to borrow money through this funding to help with rehabilitation of their buildings.

John Vertin said he will be increasing the admission price to the Coppertown Museum from \$2 to \$3. He said the museum had about 6000 visitors last year.

Reverend Langseth reported that the Greater Keweenaw Community Foundation is now a fully approved 501c3 non-profit corporation and a 20-person board of directors should be in place by September 1, 1995.

Theresa Spence announced that a local workshop will be held June 10 at NMU on how to qualify for federal grants to take care of historic records. The workshop is sponsored by NHPRC, the National Historic Record Publication program, and in order to qualify for NHPRC grants, this workshop must be attended.

The next regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission is scheduled for August 22, 1995 at 8:30 a.m. in Calumet, Michigan at the park headquarters. There is a possibility that Senator Carl Levin and NPS Central Field Director Bill Schenk will attend the meeting.

The fall meeting of the KNHP Advisory Commission has been scheduled for October 24, 1995.

A motion for adjournment was made by Clarence Dwyer and seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.