

**Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission
Minutes of Meeting – July 24, 2002**

Present: Commissioners –
Sue Cone, Village of Calumet
Kathryn Eckert, At-Large, National Park Service
Robert Langseth, Houghton County Board of Commissioners
Larry Lankton, At-Large, National Park Service
Paul Lehto, Calumet Township
Tom Nemacheck, State of Michigan
Clyde Raasio, Quincy/Franklin Township

National Park Service –
Frank Fiala, Superintendent

Glen Anderson, Manager, City of Hancock
Jim Boyce, former councilor, City of Hancock
Diana Charles, office of Sen. Carl Levin
Jesse Drake, reporter, Daily Mining Gazette
John Garber, former member Advisory Commission
Lisa McKenzie, City Council, Hancock
Erik Nordberg, MTU Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections
Amy Wisti, office of Rep. Bart Stupak
Ed Yarbrough, Quincy Mine Hoist Association

Recording Secretary: Abby Sue Fisher

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was held on Wednesday, July 24, 2002 at the Finnish American Heritage Center at Finlandia University in Hancock.

Paul Lehto will announce some information about the executive director position later in the meeting.

Review of Minutes

Minutes from the Advisory Commission meeting held April 9, 2002 were corrected as follows: page five, mid-page, regarding the ordinance, not all five of the positions are from outside organizations. Minutes passed with correction.

Old Business

There was no old business discussed.

Superintendent's Report

Frank Fiala reminded everyone that the meeting was moved to the present location (Hancock) because a new roof is being installed at the Park headquarters. He also requested that everyone speak loudly due to the cavernous nature of the Finnish-American Heritage Center.

► Properties:

1) The renovation and rehabilitation of the exterior of the C&H Administration Building is proceeding well. The project is currently at 40% completion and is ahead of schedule regarding the masonry work. The window rehabilitation will be the most time-consuming but is continuing steadily. Frank is expecting to have the work complete by the Park's 10th anniversary celebration in October. In addition, there is other work being done in the immediate area. The exterior of the Miscowaubik Club will be repainted in colors close to the original historic palette. The Agassiz house, now the Gundlach shelter, is also being repainted, also in an approximate color scheme to the original. The sewer system along Calumet Avenue is also being repaired.

2) Regarding the Union Building, a presentation was given to the regional office in April, and in May to the Development Advisory Board. Those presentations were successful and Frank thanked Tom Baker for his efforts in getting that project approved. Scaffolding is currently in process and debris removal will continue on the third floor. Frank indicated an "indefinite quantities contractor" will be hired to do the engineering and architectural work, to commence in the near future.

3) Staff has moved out of the C&H Administration Building and into the Library building, along with new equipment and artifacts. Frank thanked Abby Sue Fisher and her division and Youth Conservation Corps members for their help with the move.

4) There is an offer on the Rowe Building and it is hoped the Park will acquire that this summer. All three-dimensional equipment in the Library will be moved over to the Rowe Building.

5) There are proposals on the table for the smelter project. KNHP is working with Isle Royale in order to adaptively reuse the smelter for the Park's main visitor center. Park personnel met with MDOT to discuss egress and visitor safety issues.

6) Interior work on the Administration building (\$1.3 million) is in a good position to be funded for the next fiscal year.

7) The acquisition of the Rowe Building will complete the original four-property acquisition that was identified in January of 1998. An appraisal of the Coppertown property was done along with some environmental work. Coppertown acquired the Morrison School with an intent to adaptively reuse for a community center and display space. In turn, the Park will restore the pattern shop to its original condition and display approximately 25,000 patterns. In addition,

the Park has acquired 600,000 linear feet of core samples currently stored in the dry house by the school. Work will continue on display of those samples for future visitors.

► Activities:

1) Frank presented the Ingot of Summer 2002. The Park is also beginning a quarterly newsletter to share Park project information with local residents. Tom Baker and others are spearheading that project. The 10th anniversary logo is present in both publications.

2) Update on the 10th anniversary: there are approximately 40 founders who will be recognized at a dinner Saturday, October 26. Frank is working with Sue Cone and Bob Langseth on the mailing list. Two medallions are being designed; one will have an inscribed name of founder and the other will be to commemorate the event itself, for purchase as collector's items.

3) The U.P. Tourism Conference was held in Copper Harbor in mid-May with the Park having a significant role. Frank met with the American Travel Writers group and the Outdoor Michigan Writers group.

4) The Youth Conservation Corps project was funded. This program is designed to put students from ages 15 through 18 to work in conservation projects. The Park has hired a college student as a supervisor and four other positions. They have been active in a wide variety of projects for the Park and helped tremendously in clearing brush around the area, in helping with the move of Abby Sue's staff to the Library Building, and at the Quincy Mine Hoist.

5) Frank attended an MDOT meeting regarding road issues. They will look at the alignment of the smelter and the issues regarding a fourth traffic lane adjacent to Quincy Hill. MDOT will pursue a design change and send it to the Park for Frank and Steve DeLong's review. A paving project before the Quincy Pay Office is also in review to resolve some parking issues.

6) Next week, there is a Park service-wide training program that the KNHP is hosting, a paper conservation training course. Approximately 15 attendees will be educated on document conservation. Frank recognized Abby Sue and her division for their efforts in organizing that. Also next week, a small group will visit to assess alternative transportation.

Questions asked of the Superintendent:

Clyde Raasio asked about an advertisement in the newspaper about memorabilia from the Union Building. Frank indicated he had seen it, but did not place the ad. Frank will follow up with a phone call and inquire.

Kathryn Eckert asked Frank about his perception of the outlook for appropriations to the Park in light of current budget restraints. Frank replied that there was a substantial request of Congressman Stupak to the House, but was not included in the final House bill. In the Senate, most of what was asked of the House was on the Senate side. The House bill has been approved but the Senate bill is still waiting for a vote before conference. Frank said that is when most takes

place as to where the Park's budget will be decided. He is optimistic due to the interest in the National Parks in general this year.

Larry Lankton asked Frank if he knew where the fourth lane on Quincy Hill would begin and end. Frank said it would be down the hill from Campus Drive. Actual problems begin at the crest of the hill, primarily with logging trucks and other semi-trailer trucks, who gear down at Frenchtown Road. Larry is concerned with archeological remains and the foundations butting against rock outcrop where the pavement stops near the blacksmith shop. Frank indicated MDOT will return with a design, the Park will look at the archeological resources and form a team.

Kathryn asked how close the road will come to the pay office. Frank replied the right of way is three feet beyond the sidewalk in the existing ditch area. The pay office would be protected by the existing parking lot.

Larry asked if the patterns and the core samples would be in the same building, and asked if it would be an open storage type of museum or just storage. Frank replied it would just be the patterns. Abby Sue indicated there were over 25,000 patterns in the pattern storage warehouse and the vision is visible storage in an interpretive display. Larry suggested linking the pattern display with the extant machinery in order to educate visitors on the symbiotic relationship.

Tom Nemacheck asked if the executive director will have a presence in the newsletter and Frank replied that would be definite.

Reports from the Commissioners

Clyde was following up on a previous question about a crane at the smelter and indicated that crane was inspecting the smoke stack. Bob and Clyde met with the City of Hancock to review some plans at the Quincy unit that may or may not impact the Park. The City is supportive of the Park's projects to date. They would like to see the smelter project and the Seaman Mineral Museum project accelerate. There is some concern about wetlands in the Copper Ridge subdivision. Regarding the redevelopment of the scenic lookout, there was no collaboration between the Park and MDOT. In Clyde's discussion with the site supervisor, he was unaware he was within Park boundaries. Clyde suggests better signage to clearly identify Park boundaries.

Larry said that issue has previously been discussed. The problem is that it is not a national park in a traditional sense and does not encourage the terms "entering" and "leaving." Frank agreed it is a significant issue and suggested the smelter would be a good opportunity to introduce the orientation to visitors. Tom said it is frustrating for travelers not to know they've arrived within Park boundaries. There has been a lot of marketing done to get people to come here, and people come not to know they've arrived. Perhaps a sign saying "Keweenaw National Historical Park Cooperative District" would take the pressure off the Park. The Park needs a presence. Larry indicated a sign at the Quincy may say that is a unit of the KNHP without indicating specific Park boundaries. Tom suggested the Commission could play a role in using radio stations to flood the area in orienting visitors to the site, and using signage to tell visitors to turn to a specific radio signal. These are inexpensive and can be controlled by a single site.

Kathryn introduced Marty Fluharty, executive director of the Americana Foundation, who has been in the area for a few days working on some grant projects funded by the Foundation. Marty indicated she has family ties in Hancock and it was a homecoming for her. She is proud to be a small part of the massive effort of what the Commission and the Park is trying to do in conserving and interpreting the history of the area.

Sue thanked Marty and the Americana Foundation for their grants augmenting electrical work projects at the Calumet Theatre. Marty visited the Theatre, the Fire Museum and the Norwegian Church yesterday. Last month, Sue met with MDOT about the Pine Street brick project which is entering the design phase. That would entail curbs, gutters, sidewalks and street lights. In the fall, the first phase of the Sixth Street paving will be commenced. The intersection at Sixth and Oak will be in pressed concrete and the remainder of the street will be paved. Sue indicated that Paul submitted a full application for more paving on Sixth Street in and outside of the village. Regarding the core samples, Sue said Gordy Peterson would be happy to hear the Park had acquired them.

Frank inquired about the Council approving a temporary antenna on the clock tower. Sue said that was for Internet use. Kathryn asked what it looked like and how big it was; Sue does not know what it will look like. Larry jokingly suggested Sue consult with Ed Yarbrough, who replied that he indeed had seen the tower Charlie Hopper had proposed. It is five feet tall and white, a single pole. Sue thought that would be attached to a larger structure. Sue said there were Council members who were concerned about it detracting from the building, but she did not know what it would look like specifically. Kathryn said these towers have been placed on historic structures elsewhere; Christ Church Cranbrook, a national historic landmark, has a tower. That is inconspicuous and avoided them placing a much larger tower nearby. Larry suggested the moral of the story was to never have anybody mess with a building without seeing what the proposed antenna will look like.

Larry is pleased to see progress at the smelter. He is continuing to work on the Park's historic resources study and is currently working on Chapter 5. The industrial archeology program at Michigan Tech continues to have connections with the smelter program. A recent master's thesis was just completed on Swedetown. A ceremony was recently held to recognize donors of the St. Anne's project. Larry thanked the Americana Foundation for their support; St. Anne's is currently at \$600,000 in funding. Recognition was given to Erik Nordberg and the Park for co-hosting the Fourth Thursday in History series. Speakers are good and the idea of going where the subject matter fits is important. Finally, he reminded everyone he had resigned from the Board. Frank said he had inquired twice about Larry's replacement but as yet has not heard.

Kathryn reported on the Michigan Preservation Network. Jennifer Radcliffe, the executive director, will be leaving at the end of the month and candidates are being interviewed. The headquarters will move to Lansing, which Kathryn supports as much of their work involves lobbying and working with the Michigan Historical Center. The Network's major fundraiser will be at the Henry Ford House at Fairlane in Dearborn, to be held November 14. Edsel Ford will be present to receive special recognition. The Network's recent newsletter acknowledged KNHP as one of its major contributors. The recent Traverse City conference was well-attended and featured a partnership between people who were interested in land preservation, water quality,

tourism and historic preservation. Kathryn gave a park history of Sleeping Bear Dunes in an effort to describe how natural resources seem to prevail over funding for cultural resources when they should, in fact, peacefully co-exist. Larry prompted Kathryn to promote her talk at the Fourth Thursday in History presentation in Jacobsville, to be held the following night. Kathryn will show slides of historic sandstone architecture in the Jacobsville Community Center, to be followed by a tour of the quarry.

Tom reported on a successful U.P. Tourism Conference in Copper Harbor and a gathering of the Society of American Travel Writers, a prestigious group. Tom congratulated the Park and Frank for doing a terrific job with both programs. Steve Albee and Bob Langseth received the U.P. Gold Award this year for their part in forming the Park. Frank added that Tom also received an award for his contributions to U.P. tourism. Continuing, Tom asked about the overlook on Quincy Hill and whether the signage would change on the interpretive panel. Clyde replied MDOT was replacing the wood railing and pouring new blacktop, which would close the site until September. The site superintendent Clyde spoke with was unaware there was a need to coordinate with the Park. Tom would like to pursue the signage. Frank will check on that.

Bob showed off his U.P. Gold Award pin. He congratulated the Seaman Mineral Museum on hiring the same firm who had worked at Smithsonian in designing the Seaman's exhibits. Bob reiterated how crucial the oral history project is in preserving the area's history. He has met in the last several months with state representatives; Lansing is not aware there is a partnership park. The executive director will have a major task in educating people in Lansing about the Park. Bob made a motion to request the staff to design appropriate signs for the entrance to the Park and report back. He then made a separate motion to have the chair write the regional director to inquire about the separation of management from Isle Royale. Paul said Omaha tried to talk them out of writing a formal letter. Tom indicated it was a logical time to make the change in that the executive director is coming on board at the Park's tenth anniversary. A call for votes passed the motions unanimously.

Paul reported on drill cores in the township warehouse. Thirty core pallets will be donated to the State of Michigan and also to the Michigan Tech geological sciences department. The smoke stack preservation project is under review with scaffolding being the major holdup.

New Business

The Advisory Commission has hired a new executive director, with a name to be announced in two weeks in a forthcoming press release. October will be the starting date, with Frank providing office space but eventually the new hire will be housed elsewhere.

Public Questions and Comments

Diana Charles reported that Sen. Levin had requested \$1 million in partnership funding for the relocation of the Seaman Mineral Museum. He had also requested \$100,000 in statutory aid, \$3,000,000 to restore and rehabilitate buildings, \$1.4 million for property acquisition and to increase base funding by \$800,000. He also requested \$2.7 million for the Seaman Mineral Museum. The Interior Appropriations Committee has marked up a bill but it has not been

debated on the floor. In the mark-up, KNHP received \$3 million to rehabilitate buildings and \$600,000 for land acquisition. On August 15, the senator will be visiting the Keweenaw with travel reporters to highlight the Park. He is trying to fit the October 27 anniversary date into his travel schedule. He will be visiting October 28 for the first-day issue stamp ceremony and unveiling at Michigan Tech. The Senator and Diana were thanked for their efforts in promoting the Keweenaw.

Amy Wisti reported that Congressman Stupak will push to keep the bill through. She is uncertain of his plans for the tenth anniversary, although he is aware of the date. Because of the new faces in Lansing, Amy encouraged all interested parties to visit with officials and remind them of the progress of the area.

Erik Nordberg reported on the Fourth Thursday in History series. In addition to Kathryn speaking in Jacobsville, she will also be speaking tonight at the Houghton County Historical Society annual dinner at the Ramada, where she will also be receiving an award for her work. Erik appreciated Larry's comments about the series and concurred that the venues and speakers have worked very well in garnering attendance. In August, the presentation will be Kris Mattila who will show historic slides of the construction of the Portage Lake Lift Bridge. In September, two people will talk on the restoration of a church organ at a property the Historical Society owns in Lake Linden. Both the Americana Foundation and the Park Service have supported the project to restore the organ. In October, there will be a genealogy workshop in conjunction with the Houghton Keweenaw Genealogical Society. This concludes the end of the series' first season. Next season will be broken into five months from January through May, and then five months from June to October, to promote the presentations in blocks. Planning has begun on next season's winter series. In March, there will be what is tentatively called the "High School History Smackdown." The format will be similar to a quiz bowl/literacy bee where teams of high school students will compete on questions from a panel of experts on Copper Country history. That event will also be an opportunity to showcase projects local students have done on local history in conjunction with Michigan History Day. Erik and Abby Sue welcomed additional ideas for speakers and venues for the series. Erik also acknowledged it was a pleasure working with the Park staff, particularly Jo Urion's oral history background research, John Rosemurgy's research on the Miscowaubik and Agassiz House restoration projects, and Steve DeLong on the smelter project. As a final comment, Erik suggested that when thinking about signage, the Park may consider reviewing some of the national historic landmark districts, such as Deadwood, South Dakota. The overlook may be a great opportunity to put up a sign indicating visitors are entering the Quincy district and tie it into some interpretive signage at that stop.

Ed Yarbrough thanked Frank and Charlie Masten for organizing the Youth Conservation Corps work. They have done critical work that is time-consuming and would have been expensive for the Hoist Association, such as brushwork along the roundhouse, the water tank ruins, and the ore cars. There is more to do but hand-brushing is important due to the archeological nature of the site. Ed also thanked Tom Nemacheck for organizing the travel writers' visit and helping to bring the U.P. Tourism conference to Copper Harbor. Thanks also to Rita Hodgkins, the organizer through MSU Extension. Ed concurred with Erik that the staff of the KNHP is outstanding. The website is well-developed and well-linked with cooperating sites. Steve, John, Abby Sue, Brian Hoduski and others have contributed much technical expertise. Ed attended the U.P. History

Conference in Munising with two board members. He recommended this conference as it is valuable to hear what other historical societies and groups in the U.P. are doing. Ed and Abby Sue attended a series of exhibit design presentations for the Seaman Mineral Museum. All three firms were impressive, but the Gallagher group that was hired will do a wonderful job. Quincy received a donation from Willie and Luella Johnson of a 1900 Finnish weaving loom. This will be part of a larger collection in a worker's house on the site. The bat population at Quincy seems to be growing, and while this frightens some visitors, Ed feels this is a good contribution. Bat Conservation International is having a Bat Festival in Iron Mountain in early August and will bring some people to Quincy to work on interpretive signage regarding the bats. At the 1918 hoist, original bells and lights have been restored. Thanks to Jim Brooks for his efforts there. Quincy, with the Park's help, has been cataloguing 1,600 patterns that Franklin Township donated. Ed agrees with Larry's suggestion of showing the patterns with the machinery that is created from the patterns. Visitation this year started slowly, partially due to the cold June. Ed believes visitation is down perhaps 10% from last year, where it was up 25% over any previous year, so things overall are fine.

Larry asked that in regard to the core samples, did Quincy have any diamond drills. Ed replied they had two, one from 1875, perhaps one of the largest in the world, and another one, both are made by Sullivan. Larry suggested it didn't make any sense to have the core samples in one place and the diamond drills in another. Quincy has several wooden trays of samples in the basement. Ed estimates there are over 1,000 smaller core samples. Ed added that the larger of the two drills is in almost working order.

Duffy Liddicoat reminded everyone of the Central Mine Reunion on Sunday, July 28. The Cornish cousins will serve clotted cream and saffron buns at the #61 house and also at the visitor's center. An interesting discussion of clotted cream ensued. Duffy also reiterated her interest in maintaining the poor rock piles at Central.

Kathryn suggested that someone send a nomination for a Michigan Historic Preservation Network award for the water tower project.

Jesse Drake asked whether Bob's earlier motion about the Park signage was passed by the Advisory Commission. It was agreed that there should be some signage referring to the whole Park.

Frank thanked Erik and Ed for their comments on the quality of the KNHP staff. Coincidentally, Frank presented Abby Sue for her ten years of service to the National Park Service and to the United States government. She received a certificate and pin, and a round of applause.

The next Commission meeting was scheduled for October 8. Frank moved to change the date to Friday, October 25 in recognition of the 10th anniversary. Some members were unavailable due to commitments downstate. It was decided 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 26 would be the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned.