

**Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission
Minutes of October 29, 1996**

Present: Commissioners -

Burt Boyum, Quincy Mine Hoist Association
Kathryn Eckert, State Historic Preservation Officer
Larry Lankton, Michigan Technological University
Paul Lehto, Calumet Township Supervisor
Mary Tuisku, Council Person, City of Hancock

National Park Service -

Bill Fink, KNHP Superintendent
Josef Balachowski, Historical Architect
Lynn Bjorkman, Historical Planner
Al Hutchings, Associate Field Director
Bill Schenk, Midwest Field Office Director
Ed Yarbrough, Research Historian

Recording Secretary -

Lisa Dwyer, Michigan Technological University

Absent: Commissioner –

Clarence Dwyer, Houghton County Commissioner

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was held Tuesday, October 29, 1996 in Calumet Michigan at park headquarters. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chair Paul Lehto.

Review of Minutes

The minutes of the August 6, 1996 were reviewed. A correction was made to the minutes. The property at the Quincy Hill overlook has not actually changed hands at this point. The sale is still pending. With that correction, Burt Boyum moved that the minutes be accepted, seconded by Mary Tuisku. Motion approved.

Superintendent Fink noted that if the minutes are posted in the KNHP Update Newsletter before they have been reviewed or approved by the Advisory Commissioners, it is so stated.

Superintendent's Report

Fink distributed a copy of the initial 1997 FY budget projection spreadsheet stating that there is a 3% across the board increase from last FY's budget along with \$46,000 increase specifically called for Keweenaw in the President's FY budget. In addition, there is \$19,000 in carryover money and an additional \$20,000 to support the Historical Resource Study, which comes from funds the Midwest Field Office controls. The working budget then totals \$308,500. Priority 2 items listed in the budget are optional expenditures. Priority 1 items, such as salaries, utility bills etc. must be paid out. Priority 1 items total \$295,200 and Priority 2 items total \$13,300.

Burt Boyum asked what the procedure will be to release funds (\$5,700) in the budget which have been listed in support of the Quincy Mine Hoist Association cooperating site. Fink said he would submit the QMHA cooperating agreement paperwork to the contracting officer at Isle Royal for review. If no further review is

necessary, the contracting officer will then have the authority to implement the release of funds to Quincy.

Kathryn Eckert said she was pleased to see that the research historian and historical planner will be on the payroll for the entire FY adding that these positions should be made permanent.

Fink said that based on the hope that the transfer of the old state police post goes through to Calumet Township at the price of \$1.00, the township plans on allowing the park to occupy the building. Fink said if this happens, the remodeling of the second floor of the building where park headquarters is presently located will not be done. He said that he and the park staff will wait another year or two until the fate of the building, where park headquarters is currently located, is decided and avoid \$18,000 in lease payments. The park funds will have to pay for snowplowing and utilities at the old state police post, Fink added. Eckert pointed out that if the police post does come under the park's jurisdiction, it should be added to the list of state supported items for the park.

Fink said that the travelers information radio station is up and running. It is a low power AM broadcast on 1610 AM with the antenna and transmitter facilities located behind Quincy Mine Hoist. Programming right now is done by Fink. Announcements will be made on behalf of KNHP, Isle Royal, and Keweenaw Tourism Council. There will be announcements of daily snowmobile and cross county ski conditions as well as National Weather Service announcements. The Michigan State Police will broadcast winter road report information. The state will be installing signs on highways alerting travelers to the 1610 AM radio station sometime during winter 1996-97.

Fink asked the Advisory Commissioners their opinion on whether \$5,000 to \$10,000, should be spent to have a consulting firm prepare a compilation listing data and grants, and how the park has affected the area economically and socially. It would be a very definitive report on what the park has meant to the community. There was discussion on whether the park staff would have the time do such a report. Fink stated that his staff has other projects that take priority and he said he is not sure when he and his staff could compile such a report. Eckert said that it would probably be a combined effort of the park staff providing information to a consulting firm in order to compile data. Lankton asked of what use such a report would provide and would we be better off for it. Would it get us more grants or raise more money? Fink said, if it is done right, it could do both. The primary audience would be federal congressional delegations, park service hierarchy in the Department of Interior as well as the State of Michigan. Fink added that the money used to pay a consulting firm would be the funds designated in the budget right now for cooperating sites. The general consensus after discussion by the Advisory Commissioners was not to expend the money and to do a report in-house.

Fink stated that the General Management Plan draft document has been circulated for internal review among the Advisory Commissioners. The commissioners then discussed the recommended revisions that resulted from their review. It was stated that there were "inaccuracies" in the draft document, which would take some time to work on. Larry Lankton said that the word "inaccuracies" understates the seriousness of the recommended revisions. It was agreed that the revisions will entail not only style but philosophical changes in the document.

Burt Boyum commented that one of the problems with the initial draft of the GMP document is the considerable attention played to so called hazardous materials. QMHA is vitally concerned about hazardous and non hazardous waste and any steps cooperating sites need to take to protect visitors, but on the other hand, if there are ridiculous or exaggerated statements made by the EPA, this should be taken into consideration. Boyum said he would again like to state as he has in previous meetings, that in his opinion, the EPA reports on this area's hazardous materials are some of the most unprofessional reports he has ever seen. This should be taken into consideration by the GMP drafting team.

Bill Schenk, Midwest Field Director, said the GMP team is prepared to come back as soon as possible to sit down and work with all who have submitted revisions to the GMP draft document.

Al Hutchings, Associate Field Director, explained that some members of the GMP team will return to work with the Advisory Commissioners on the revisions to the GMP. Then the team will return to Denver and physically make the changes on the document. These revisions will then be reviewed again by the Advisory Commissioners. If the document is approved, it will be printed and distributed for public review. Fink added that there would probably be one or two workshops for public review. The time frame here would be a minimum of 45 days plus 5 more days to allow for any communications mailed on the 45th day. The document would be revised once more based on public comment and probably would be shown again to the Advisory Commissioners. It would then be printed and produced. If this timetable goes smoothly then the document could be ready by April or May, but July might be more realistic. Hutchings added that Lankton is correct in saying that some of the revisions won't be that simple to make. The Denver Center is already working on suggested revisions in the vision portion of the document, Hutchings added.

Burt Boyum made a motion that "the Advisory Commission advises the National Park Service of our appreciation of the need for an adequate general management plan reflecting the partnerships that are involved in this, and indicating our willingness to meet with the drafting team to correct inaccuracies that we have detected and strive for a goal of July 1997 for completion of this joint effort." The motion was seconded Mary Tuisku. Motion carried.

Historical Architect's Report

Josef Balachowski reported that he has completed slide presentations on historic architecture and specific issues on preservation in neighborhoods and towns. He will be showing slide presentations to the Hancock Historic Preservation Commission, other groups in the Keweenaw community as well as the Calumet High School drafting class which is helping Balachowski document the Powder House building behind Calumet Township Hall.

Balachowski said he has offered to write a development plan for the Quincy Mine Hoist Association to help identify the resources for future visitor activities and needs. He said he has met with the board and will go forward with this development plan in the near future.

Balachowski said he had heard that Osceola 13 had been purchased by developer Tom Moyle. He distributed a draft copy of a letter he would like to send to Moyle requesting permission to enter the Osceola 13 area in order to prepare some assessments for the feasibility of documenting and discussing preservation of the resources there. Balachowski asked for comments or suggestions on the letter and then he said he will send the letter to Moyle. Balachowski said he would like Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) photographer, Jet Lowe, who is currently working on his master's degree at Michigan Tech in the Industrial Archaeology program, to help him with the project.

Research Historian's Report

Ed Yarbrough reported that the Historic Resource Study, which will eventually become the basis for interpretation of the park, is almost ready for external review. It will be sent out to experts in the field of the history of the area. Larry Lankton, Kathryn Eckert, and Burt Boyum are among the reviewers.

Yarbrough said that approximately 1000 visitors attended his slide presentations given at Porcupine Mountain, Fort Wilkins, and MacLain State Parks as well as various private showings this past summer.

The lexan-on-aluminum signs have been ordered for the Calumet walking tour and may be completed by December, Yarbrough said. Installation of the signs could be sometime in the spring of 1997. The photographs

for the signs were donated by the MTU Archives and the Copper County Historical Collections.

The Quincy Smelting Works exhibit Yarbrough is assembling will eventually be displayed at the 1894 Hoist House at Quincy. He is working with site manager, Jim Vivian Jr., as well as Jet Lowe and Josef Balachowski. The display features narrative, historic photos, tools from the smelter, and black slag.

Yarbrough said he is in the last week of finishing his master's thesis, which is an ethnographic history of the churches of Calumet, and it will be a contribution to the park's historical information.

Yarbrough said he has been updating a document which is from a 1929 geological study of the area. He will submit it for review to Burt Boyum, Professors Bill Rose and Ted Bornhorst of Michigan Tech, and Curator of the Seaman Mineralogical Museum at Tech, Stan Dyl. This document should shed light on the underground resources and, hopefully, he continued, generate increased interest from both the geology and mining departments at Tech to become involved in projects with the park as well as highlighting some of the interpretation at the existing underground tours. Burt Boyum suggested that Yarbrough check with the Bureau of Mines or other national organizations, which may have movies of the smelter when it was in operation and if any are available they would be a good adjunct to the exhibit.

Historic Planner

Lynn Bjorkman said her work is continuing on the development of the historic district ordinance for Calumet Township. She said that in September the Calumet Township Trustees adopted the first historic preservation district ordinance in the Keweenaw. Bjorkman distributed a summary of the ordinance. The ordinance will go into affect November 9, 1996. Bjorkman said she would like to point out the portion in the ordinance, which refers to a "Proposed Historic District." The ordinance states that the "The Township Board can adopt a resolution requiring that all work in a proposed district be subject to review for a period of no longer than one year. A proposed historic district can be established by defining its boundaries and showing evidence of its historic and architectural significance. The Commission can review and approve work using the same powers and procedures that would apply in a permanent historic district, as outlined in the ordinance." She said an Historic District Ordinance Commission will be established consisting of the Calumet Township supervisor who will then appoint others to the commission. The commission will regulate the work affecting historic resources.

Bjorkman said she will be working with Quincy to help develop historic district guidelines and also investigate potential ordinances with surrounding communities.

Surveying mine house properties at Quincy and Calumet will be another focus for Bjorkman, she said. A group of students from the University of Wisconsin has been helping to compile a report regarding this survey.

Bjorkman said she would like to thank Houghton County Commissioner, Jim Boyce, for spearheading the series of recent meetings titled "Shaping Our Future Growth Management and Land Stewardship." She added that she hopes this series will further efforts to develop more of a sensitivity on how to protect the area of the Keweenaw and, specifically, how this impacts on preservation and protection of our park interests.

Report from Commissioners

Burt Boyum, Chair of the Advisory Commissioner's Operations and Finance subcommittee said two meetings were held in August and October. The subcommittee had requested a monthly summary of the KNHP budget from Superintendent Fink in order to keep informed of expenditures and also to use the information to contact congressional people to urge them to provide additional funds for specific things. What was discovered at those two meetings was that the Park Service may not always be able to provide the monthly summary to the

subcommittee. Also, the system of accounting used by the Park Service does not lend itself to the kind of information that the subcommittee needed, Boyum added. Boyum continued that they also reviewed with Fink the procedures that are used by Congress to augment the park budget. Fink explained in detail with emphasis on the pitfalls that exist in the budget procedure. It was then concluded that the subcommittee serves no purpose so no plans have been made to meet again.

Paul Lehto added that efforts should be continued to lobby our legislators for increased funding. Boyum noted that the completion of the GMP should be a good springboard for that effort and Eckert added that another springboard for lobbying in Lansing would be the compilation of the KNHP grant history to date.

Paul Lehto spoke of a number of things that Calumet Township has been working on. He said the grant was received by Calumet Township to put sidewalks, landscaping and streetlights on Sixth Street. The township hopes to hear some good news on the proposed purchase of 900 acres of Swedetown Ski Trails. The funds are from a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant.

He said he has been working with Fink and Balachowski on the Captain's Office and with Yarbrough on the Calumet walking tour. The old state police post is hopefully going to be donated to Calumet Township once the state police vacate it to move to their new quarters. Lehto said the Seaman Museum may be willing to loan small displays as long as space and security is provided. Funds are now available to redo Fifth Street past St. Anne's Church and in the Swedetown area. An Inland Fisheries grant will go to improve the Swedetown Pond area. The township is slated to receive a \$100,000 MSHDA grant, which would go to target dilapidated homes, which the township would buy, rehabilitate, and sell to low income people.

In the absence of Clarence Dwyer, Paul Lehto asked if there are still ongoing negotiations with the doctors who own the building where park headquarters is currently located. Fink said that the doctors are beginning to get their new building underway and it could be ready by the end of the year. If this is the case, park headquarters could be moved from where it is now to the first floor. Then remodeling wouldn't be necessary on the second floor. Fink said he has contacted the Trust for Public Lands, a non profit group which purchases lands that are strategic to the National Park. The Trust holds these purchases for a period of time until appropriations come through allowing the Park Service to purchase the property. Fink said he has requested that the Trust look into purchase of the building where park headquarters is now located. He said he also requested that the Trust approach the Ventures Group to purchase the Quincy Pay Office as well. The fair market value is estimated at just under \$500,000 for the doctors' building where park headquarters is located now and \$70,000 for the Quincy Pay Office according to Boyum.

Kathryn Eckert reported that her office's review board met in October and approved the nomination of Fayette, a former iron smelting town in the Garden Peninsula of the Upper Peninsula, to the national level of significance. Efforts are being made to move forward with a coastal zone management grant in order to implement a cultural resource management plan, which would lead to additional funding from the legislature for stabilization and interpretation work at Fayette.

Eckert said her office is working with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and General Service Administration on the transfer of many lighthouses in Michigan that are now being declared surplus by the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Coast Guard. Efforts are being made to allow current custodians of these lighthouses to have a fair opportunity to obtain the lighthouses, too.

Eckert said her office held conferences this past fall. One concerned rural preservation issues. The other titled "Preserving More for Less" was held at the Michigan Historical Center and dealt with the economics of historic preservation, how to get grants, how to apply to foundations for money, and how to approach private individuals. Training sessions were held for historic district commissioners dealing with issues like economic

hardships and property rights.

Eckert noted that Calumet Township is Michigan's 53rd community, and the most recent, to have a local historic district ordinance put in place.

Mary Tuisku reported that Hancock waterfront development is progressing. The developer of the motel has been very cooperative with the City of Hancock as far as signage is concerned. There will just be directional signs to the motel. Design plans are completed for the streetscaping in Hancock. Work is projected to begin in the summer of 1997. Tuisku said that property values have increased in the last 6 to 8 months in Hancock. Rehab efforts are taking place to some structures in the downtown area. Construction in the city is at a record high, but the city is closely monitoring development to insure that it is appropriate, she added.

The Historic Preservation Commission of Hancock continues to be very active, Tuisku continued. The home of Mary Chase Stratton, founder of Pewabic Pottery, located in Hancock has not been demolished thanks to the commission, according to Tuisku.

Larry Lankton, Chair of the Preservation Planning subcommittee said his committee has not met so there is nothing to report.

Lankton said two national organizations will be coming to the area in the spring of 1997. The Society of Industrial Archaeology conference will be held May 29-June 1, 1997 and hosted by the Industrial Archaeology program at Michigan Tech. The following week the Mining History Association will be meeting in Houghton. Erik Nordberg, MTU archivist, is heading up that conference. Lankton said there should be a great deal of publicity generated about the park and the Keweenaw in connection with both of these conferences.

Lankton said he met with President Curt Tompkins of Michigan Tech recently to discuss the role MTU could play in the park efforts. Lankton said he learned from the meeting that Tech would be interested in providing specimens and curatorial assistance if the park were to provide the space and pay for installation of a mineralogical exhibit.

Lankton said he is part of the St. Anne's Church group trying to preserve that structure and to insure that it is incorporated in any park planning. The St Anne's supporters would like to see the church as a premier site for an exhibit on Calumet culture.

Lankton said he is concerned with some of the changes he has noticed at the Quincy site. He asked what the current plans are regarding the new hospital to be built on Quincy as well as the traffic light slated for that area. Will all of this detract from the site? He said changes at Quincy should be minimized in order to keep its rural characteristics. He said that he was very dismayed to discover that the ruins of the No. 7 Hoist House (made of Jacobsville sandstone) had been taken down one weekend recently at Quincy. Standing ruins are equally important in order to give visitors who make the walking tour an overall quality experience, Lankton emphasized. He said he is very concerned for the landscape and the topography of the land, as well as old railroad beds, earth being moved around, and in general "sanitizing" the area. We are not shepherding our resources very well if this is allowed to happen, he continued. The ground itself is part of the park, too. The piles of slag and poor rock are important features of the park's National Historic Landmark districts. It should be taken into consideration that there could be archaeological sites yet to be unearthed. There were four kiln houses in the Quincy area at one time, but there is no example of what one looked like at this time. It could be that these are buried by poor rock. By moving earth and stone, something like this could be destroyed. More attention should be paid to standing ruins as well as the archeological prospects, he concluded.

Burt Boyum reported on the Quincy tramway saying that the rails and tramcar are almost complete. There are no plans yet for an opening ceremony, but it will probably be tied into some event in May of 1997.

Boyum said that QMHA's long range plans are to install rails in the Quincy Mine East adit (also known as Michigan Tech Experimental Mine and operate a rail car which would transport visitors into the mine from the portal of the adit to the first workings in the mine approximately 2000 feet away. These workings date to the Civil War.

In addition, QMHA is working with Josef Balachowski and Social Sciences Department Chair, Terry Reynolds, on the walking path. Boyum displayed a copy of a pamphlet titled "An Introduction to the Quincy Mine National Historic Landmark: Quincy Mine Keweenaw National Historical Park Co-operating Site." Boyum noted that he was dismayed to see that in the pamphlet it is not mentioned that QMHA is a cooperating site. He said he feels that there are a number of inaccuracies in the pamphlet and said in his opinion, it does not tell the story in layman's language about the technology of the area. Boyum continued saying that QMHA was not consulted on the contents of the pamphlet and he said that better communications are needed when projects such as this are developed.

Midwest Field Office Director

Bill Schenk complimented the Advisory Commissioners on the time and effort they make toward the park. The extensive comments on the draft of the General Management Plan are appreciated and it really reflects the interest and concern that people have for the park. There is a united interest with dedication to make things work, he said. It is true partnership park and he encouraged the commissioners to be strong players as they have been. He said that at a previous meeting there was discussion about presenting a united front here in the Keweenaw in order to make things succeed. Rallying around the GMP document clearly expresses that unity and it will pay off in seeking funding, he added.

Schenk distributed a new edition of a brochure published by the National Park Service and noted that KNHP is now listed as one of the established national parks in the Midwest. This brochure lists all of the parks in the Midwest Field area. The Midwest Field area represents a little over 26% of the population in the U.S.

Reports and Comments from Guests

Jim Boyce, Houghton County Commissioner, commented on the meetings he attended (referred to earlier in today's meeting by Lynn Bjorkman) on growth management and land stewardship. He added that an informed public is needed in order to support the efforts of the township and county officials in land use planning.

John Garbor of Calumet said he was pleased to see the efforts made to preserve the home of Margaret Chase Stratton in Hancock. He said he would like to encourage the cities of Hancock and Houghton to preserve the Pewabic tiles in the old Houghton High School. Stratton's husband was the architect of that school and presumably, this is why the tiles were used in the school.

Garbor said he would be happy to volunteer his time to do the compilation of data, discussed earlier in today's meeting, on the accomplishments of the local communities toward the park effort.

Jim Vivian Jr. of QMHA said in reply to Larry Lankton's question regarding the No. 7 Hoist House being torn down, that property was sold about 1 1/2 years ago by the Ventures Group before QMHA could get control of it. The new landowner contracted to have the ruins taken down much to QMHA's regret, he added.

Representatives for both Senator Carl Levin and Congressman Bart Stupak attended today's Advisory Commission meeting. Both the Senator and the Congressman sent their best wishes and praises for the hard

work and effort that is being done toward the park efforts.

KNHP Advisory Commission meeting dates for 1997 were set as follows:

Tuesday, February 25, 1997, 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, June 3, 1997, 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, August 19, 1997, 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, October 28, 1997, 8:30 a.m.

The meetings will be held at park headquarters in Calumet.

Paul Lehto thanked the recording secretary of the KNHP Advisory Commission for her time spent in recording and transcribing the minutes. Fink added his thanks saying she is here courtesy of Michigan Tech.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.