



Meeting  
January 13, 2015

Present: Commissioners

Stephen Albee, At-Large  
Sue Dana, Village of Calumet (by phone)  
Allan Johnson, State of Michigan  
Ed Jenich, Houghton County Board of Commissioners  
Kim Hoagland, At-Large (by phone)  
Bob Langseth, Calumet Township  
John Sullivan, Franklin and Quincy Townships

Present: Executive Director

Scott See

Present: Keweenaw National Park Service

Brian Hoduski, Chief of Museum Services  
Mike Pflaum, Superintendent

Present: Recording Secretary

John Arnold

Present: Guests

Glenda Bierman, Quincy Mine Hoist Association  
Kristine Bradof, Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association  
Dave Geisler, Village of Calumet  
Lindsay Hiltunen, Michigan Tech Archives  
Virginia Jamison, Keweenaw County Historical Society  
Larry Molloy, Keweenaw County Historical Society  
Nancy Molloy, Keweenaw County Historical Society  
Bill Rose, Michigan Technological University  
Mark Rowe, Keweenaw County Historical Society  
Kristy Walden, Houghton County Historical Society  
Shamikah White

### **Call to Order**

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was called at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 13, 2015, at the Keweenaw NHP Headquarters in Calumet, Michigan.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Allan Johnson and seconded by Ed Jenich to approve agenda as presented. **Motion carried unanimously. (7/0).**

### **Approval of Minutes of October 21, 2014**

Moved by John Sullivan and seconded by Allan Johnson to approve the minutes as presented. **Motion carried unanimously. (7/0).**

### **National Significance Spotlight: Dr. William Rose**

Dr. William Rose, Research Professor of Geological and Mining Engineering and Sciences at Michigan Technological University, presented a brief and illuminating overview of the national significance of Keweenaw National Historical Park's geology. Accompanied by a visual presentation, Rose related the fascinating and singular history of the origins of the copper found in the Keweenaw, illustrating the unparalleled geological significance of the peninsula.

One of Earth's largest lava flows ever occurred in this location 1.1 billion years ago, liberating a pool of magma from deep within the earth, an event that generated the familiar basalt of the region and shaped the Lake Superior basin. The sedimentary red stone that comprises many buildings in the Keweenaw formed from the eroded grain of extinct mountains, and contains fossils of ancient organisms that contributed to the oxygenation of Earth's early atmosphere. The Keweenaw also features a significant thrust fault that exposed the deep rocks and copper-bearing deposits to the surface where they could be found and extracted. Rose reported that this history is bound together by the concept of geoheritage, and encouraged anyone interested in learning more to begin with a search for "Keweenaw geoheritage" on the internet.

### **Discussion following Dr. Rose's presentation**

Responding to questions from Superintendent Pflaum, Dr. Rose further elaborated on the significance of the geology of the Keweenaw, clarifying that the area is widely acknowledged to be of global, not merely national, significance for its outstanding geological features. Additionally, Dr. Rose noted that efforts are underway to secure international formal recognition for the area as a "geopark," a designation that would be the first for the nation.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Scott See 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.**

See reported that the National Park Service is in the midst of its annual Service-wide Comprehensive Call (SCC) for future projects. The Keweenaw National Historical Park has been successful in the past in using this process to acquire federal funding above and beyond the normal operating budget. See reported that he, along with Commissioners Langseth and Albee, have been participating in this process, and will soon begin the prioritization of the projects to be sent forward.

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

No significant activity under this goal during the quarter.

**Develop partnerships that provide visitors with a cohesive, accessible, and engaging national park experience along the entire length of the Keweenaw.**

See reported that in November he oversaw two environmental cleanup activities at the Quincy Smelter. UP Environmental Services (UPES) worked at the site to remediate several sources of arsenic, cadmium, asbestos, and oil contamination. UPES took a week to prepare the site, conduct the cleanup activities, and truck the hazardous waste to various disposal facilities. In parallel to this work, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) cleaned up several sources of mercury contamination in the smelter assay office. The Emergency Response Branch of the EPA vacuumed up visible mercury, sealed off a contaminated drain, and removed a piece of contaminated equipment from the building. While the building must be tested again in the spring, it is expected that the Quincy Smelter Association (QSA) will be able to include the Assay Office in future tours.

See met with Horst Schmidt of the QSA and Commissioner Sullivan at the smelter in mid-November and reviewed several artifact and material changes that the QSA would like to make in order to improve their tours. See reported that many of the artifacts at the site have been left in piles in various locations throughout the site, and that the QSA would like to meaningfully organize some of these materials for visitors.

Further, in December See facilitated a meeting regarding the future of the Quincy Dredge. While Houghton County Historical Society owns the dredge, the adjacent land is owned by Osceola Township; both groups are eager to work with the NPS and the Commission to develop a long-term vision for the site. It is anticipated that a "Friends of the Dredge" meeting will be held in the late spring to invite the involvement of other interested parties in the community.

Finally, the Advisory Commission has enlisted John Arnold to assist with some research and planning for the various industrial buildings in the Calumet Unit. In addition to being the recording secretary for the Commission, John is an architect who is currently pursuing a PhD in Industrial Heritage and Archeology at Michigan Tech. John's work will focus on assessing the state of the historic buildings, looking at how other communities have dealt with similar issues, and then proposing a plan of action for the park and the community.

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

See announced that, thanks to an anonymous donor, the Advisory Commission will continue its Keweenaw Heritage Grant Program. The program this year will offer \$125,000 in a format similar to last year. Applications will be due April 1<sup>st</sup>, and decisions announced by May 1<sup>st</sup>. See

and park Historical Architect John Rosemurgy will provide a press release and applications in the coming week.

Park Chief of Interpretation & Education Kathleen Harter and See met with Copper Country Intermediate School District Curriculum Consultant Carla Strome to discuss ways to better utilize park resources in for teaching history in the local schools. It was determined that the next step is to assemble a focus group of teachers later this spring to discuss how to move forward.

See also worked on organizing some input to a public comment period regarding the Gay Stamp Sands. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Army Corps of Engineers asked for feedback on a proposal to remove the sands for commercial purposes. Although there may be environmental and commercial justifications to removing the sands, the Commission was concerned that the historic nature of the sands themselves was not being considered. The sand deposit at Gay is one of the few places remaining on the Keweenaw capable of conveying the scale of past mining operations, and the Commission encouraged the DEQ and the Army Corps to work with the State Historic Preservation Office to determine if there are ways to mitigate the potential negative impacts to sand.

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

See related that Superintendent Pflaum has again submitted a regional office contingency fund request on behalf of the Advisory Commission. While it is not yet known if this will result in additional funding, reminders to the regional office of the Commission's funding needs is a worthwhile undertaking.

Moved by John Sullivan and seconded by Ed Jenich to approve Scott See's report. **Motion carried unanimously. (7/0).**

### **Commission Committees and Projects**

#### **Announcements / Executive**

Commissioner Langseth provided a brief summary of Commissioner Hoagland's annual report, noting in particular that in 2014, Commissioners provided a total of 998 volunteer hours to the work of the Advisory Commission. Approximately half of these hours were dedicated to working with heritage sites, serving on boards, leading tours, and preparing presentations and exhibits; the remainder of the time was focused on advising and assisting the Park Service in KNHP programs, fostering a dynamic heritage program, and encouraging preservation and heritage awareness.

#### **Budget / Finance**

Commissioner Dana reported that the Commission has reviewed the financial statements and quarterly bills, from October 22, 2014 to January 13, 2015.

Moved by Sue Dana and seconded by Allan Johnson to approve bills in total, including wages and taxes, in the amount of \$69,713.10. **Motion carried unanimously. (7/0).**

Moved by Ed Jenich and seconded by Stephen Albee to approve the contract with John Arnold in the amount of \$16,000.00 to complete the preservation plan for the industrial buildings within the Calumet Unit of the Park. **Motion carried unanimously. (7/0).**

## **Development**

Nothing to report.

## **Partnerships**

Nothing to report.

## **Preservation-Stewardship**

Nothing to report.

## **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Mike Pflaum began by providing an overview of recent news of national and regional nature.

Pflaum reported that Cameron "Cam" Sholly has been named director of the National Park Service's Midwest Region. Speaking highly of his capability, Pflaum noted that an invitation to Sholly to visit the Park would be forthcoming in the near future.

Pflaum also noted that while the NPS budget as a whole has been passed for FY15, it is not yet known for certain what KNHP's share of that overall budget will be; it is anticipated that the amount will be similar to the prior year's allocation. Furthermore, Pflaum reported that the Commission was fully funded to its maximum authorized amount of \$250,000.00 in 2014, noting in particular that while this maximum is authorized, it is not guaranteed, and stating that work is underway to request the first \$100,000.00 for 2015 through the NPS regional office contingency funds.

Superintendent Pflaum next presented highlights of divisional reports.

Chief of Interpretation Kathleen Harter and Park Historian Jo Holt have been working with a film company for "a youth-focused short film about the 1913/14 strike. Harter and Holt have been directing this project and utilizing the skill set of a recent art graduate from Finlandia University. The film was done in collaboration with Larry Lankton, a local student, the MTU Archives and the Park Archives. The film will be completed in late March 2015.

The annual High School Local History Smackdown is scheduled for April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Pflaum expressed his appreciation to the Commission for their support of this event, and extended an invitation to all to attend this popular event that engages youth, schools, and community. The venue and additional logistical information will be forthcoming.

The Calumet Visitor Center is now operating on winter hours, Fridays and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. This schedule will be maintained until late April, with hours increasing as the budget allows.

The Service-wide Comprehensive Call, or SCC, is the Park's annual process for requesting project funds for future work; this park has been very successful in the past in competing for these funds. Pflaum noted that while competition is stiff for a limited pool of funding, the Park has a strong team, and appreciates the engagement of the commission. This year's deadline is January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Pflaum reported that the Park's Facebook page is receiving 495 visitors a day, and thanked Harter and her staff for their hard work and diligence in producing interesting and informative posts for the readership.

Historical Architect John Rosemurgy has been working closely with the Quincy Mine Hoist Association to develop a photovoltaic lighting system for the entrance of the Mine, using funds received in a settlement with Wisconsin over air-quality issues. Work is anticipated to be completed by this summer.

Senator Carl Levin met with NPS Associate Director of Park Planning, Facilities, and Lands, Vic Knox, in Washington, D.C. in December to discuss the Quincy Smelter; as a result of that meeting, Knox has expressed an interest in visiting KNHP to see the smelter firsthand and the environmental cleanup work that, together with the Commission and EPA, has already been accomplished, and to learn about the plans for the smelter that are in place and the compelling story that the smelter helps to tell. This visit is tentatively planned for early summer, and may also include regional director Cam Sholly or deputy regional director Patty Trap.

Pflaum related that this year the park will employ a new and streamlined National Park Service planning process, the culminating product of which is termed a "Foundation Statement." The intent of its development and production is to review and reaffirm the park's purpose and significance, and to identify and prioritize important needs for the present and future. This is an excellent opportunity for the park and partners to revisit and align focus and direction; it is not a document meant to replace the general management plan. Work on this document is anticipated to begin in spring with a short workshop at the park.

Superintendent Pflaum called attention to efforts by the National Park Service and the National Park Foundation, its Congressionally chartered non-profit partner, to raise awareness of the upcoming centennial of the NPS on August 25, 2016. Beginning in April of this year, the public awareness campaign will seek to engage communities and park visitors alike through special events and programs. Pflaum expressed his excitement for the project and encouraged all of the partner sites to participate in the planning efforts and in the generation of local enthusiasm for the upcoming centennial. Additionally, there will be an upcoming opportunity to compete for a federal matching grant to support qualifying programs and events. More information on this grant will be announced in the near future, and partners should be prepared to help take advantage of this opportunity.

In closing, Pflaum reported on an upcoming "zone meeting," to be attended by representatives of 11 parks within the four-state zone comprised of Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and upper Michigan. This meeting, tentatively planned for early summer, will focus on sharing information and best practices for park partnerships and it is anticipated to include around 20 partner entities from the Upper Midwest; Pflaum encouraged the Commission, Keweenaw Heritage Sites, and related organizations to consider involvement in the meeting.

### **Other reports from Commissioners**

Commissioner Ed Jenich will be soliciting donations for the upcoming History Smackdown, which takes place just days after the next regular meeting of the Advisory Commission.

Commissioner Sue Dana proposed that the Commission explore the idea of a reciprocal admission program which is a technique used at some other parks as a component of a membership drive.

### **Comments from Legislators or Legislative Staff**

Nothing to report.

### **Comments from Keweenaw Heritage Site Representatives**

Virginia Jamison, past president of the Keweenaw County Historical Society (KCHS), introduced the new president of the KCHS, Larry Molloy, both of whom expressed their interest in the continued good relations between the society and the park.

Scott See took the opportunity to thank Jamison for her hard work and advocacy over the years to a round of applause.

Lindsay Hiltunen, Michigan Tech Archives senior archivist, reported that last summer the archives introduced a pilot program to conduct tours of the restricted stack area and the workrooms to educate the public about the work archivists do in general, and what is done at the Tech archives in particular. This program was very successful, with more than 30 tours conducted since last July, and is likely to continue into the future. Hiltunen also reported that the archives has received travel grant program funding from the Friends of the Van Pelt Library to bring in researchers from across the nation to utilize collections in the area, and is soliciting assistance in advertising this grant opportunity. She can be reached by email at copper@mtu.edu, or by phone at the Tech Archives, (906) 487-2505.

Glenda Bierman, Quincy Mine Hoist Association (QMHA) manager, reported that work is underway in documenting their collections, and that as the stabilization of the hoist house is now complete, work can move on to restoration efforts. Bierman also reported that sales of their new publication *Rock Down, Coal Up* are brisk, and noted that shaft house illumination dedications are again priced at \$25.00, and are available for purchase by contacting her.

Scott See called for a round of applause to acknowledge the QHMA's generous donation of \$750.00 raised through the sale of shaft lightings towards the recent purchase of the Quincy Smelter.

Kristy Walden of the Houghton County Historical Society announced that their train is again fully functioning, and reported that their existing geoheritage trail is being upgraded with native plantings and new signage to become a "braille trail," which will be only the third such trail for the visually impaired in the United States.

Mark Rowe, Maritime Chairman of the Keweenaw County Historical Society (KCHS), reported that the KCHS will be holding a commemoration this summer in observance of the centennial of the U.S. Coast Guard. Further, two projects are underway with the life saving museum: first, excavations of the marine railway have begun, and work will continue this spring with assistance from Ft. Wilkins; second, the boathouse will be re-roofed this spring, following the specifications of the original 1939 building.

Kristine Bradof of the Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association (IRKPA) reported that she has been working with park employees Kathleen Harter and Valerie Newman on developing a new line of merchandise called “Advice from a Copper Miner,” in conjunction with a company that specializes in “advice from nature” products. Efforts are underway to secure permission to use the New Deal-era mural in the Calumet Post Office as a cover image. A second project is underway to develop an inexpensive and accessible guidebook to the shared geology and geoheritage of Isle Royale National Park and Keweenaw National Historical Park.

### **Comments from the Public**

Nothing to report.

### **Motion to Adjourn**

Moved to adjourn by Ed Jenich, and seconded by Stephen Albee at 10:16 a.m. **Motion carried unanimously. (7/0).**

### **Next Meeting**

Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015.