



Meeting
July 15, 2014

Present: Commissioners

Stephen Albee, At-Large
Kim Hoagland, At-Large
Allan Johnson, State of Michigan
Bob Langseth, Calumet Township
John Sullivan, Franklin and Quincy Townships

Absent: Commissioners

Sue Dana, Village of Calumet
Ed Jenich, Houghton County Board of Commissioners

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

Judy Albee
Amy Berglund, Senator Levin's Office
Kristine Bradof, Isle Royale and Keweenaw Parks Association
Anita Campbell
Paul Campbell
Kurt Hauglie, Daily Mining Gazette
Eric Iverson
Libby Iverson
Virginia Jamison, Keweenaw County Historical Society
Paul Lehto, Calumet Township
Elaine Rysiewicz, Calumet Township

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was called at 9:01 a.m., Tuesday, July 15, 2014, at the Keweenaw NHP Headquarters in Calumet, Michigan.

Approval of Agenda

Approval of agenda as presented was moved by Allan Johnson and seconded by Stephen Albee. **Motion carried unanimously. (5/0).**

Approval of Minutes of April 15, 2014

Approval of the minutes as presented was moved by Bob Langseth and seconded by Allan Johnson. **Motion carried unanimously. (5/0).**

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Scott See reported on the goals of the Advisory Commission. See began his report with explaining how he supported the goals of advising the National Park Service (NPS) during the quarter.

Advise the National Park Service at Keweenaw National Historical Park on park planning, preservation, interpretation, and operational matters.

No significant activity under this goal during the quarter.

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

See reported that the spring Heritage Site meeting, attended by thirteen of the twenty-one Sites, was held May 22nd. The group discussed the upcoming NPS Centennial, an expanded park interpretative plan, summer Heritage Site Ranger arrangements, and a number of grant opportunities in addition to the normal reports.

See further reported on the successes met by interpretive rangers in public engagement at various Heritage Sites and community events so far this summer, citing specifically two methods used to draw people to the booth: the "be a ranger" carnival cut-out style photo stand, and Heritage Site logo Frisbees.

A fall field trip for Heritage Site representatives to the annual convention of the American Association of State and Local History in St. Paul, Minnesota is being assembled. The NPS has offered the use of their van, and Commission has offered partial funding for registration and lodging. To date, five Sites have provisionally accepted the invitation to attend.

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

As reported at the April meeting, sufficient funds are now in place to execute the option agreement to purchase the Quincy Smelter from Franklin Township. However, the Commission had been awaiting a Reasonable Steps Letter from the EPA (outlining steps to limit liability for any site contamination) and the completion of the NPS environmental site assessments. This letter has now been received from the EPA, and the assessments are expected to be completed

within a week, clearing the way to begin the process of exercising the option agreement with Franklin Township. See noted that with the approval of the Commission, he would begin this process next week, and set a closing date towards the end of the month.

See followed this important good news with a few brief additional notes on the smelter. First, the National Guard is no longer considering using the smelter site as the northern end of an emergency bridge location across Portage Canal. Second, Mont Ripley (the MTU ski hill) has expanded their parking lot and removed a greater number of mature trees from the area between the smelter and the parking lot than had been hoped by the Commission, leaving the area less visually protected than had been anticipated. Finally, the Commission has been in conversation with the City of Houghton, MDOT, and M.J.O. Contracting, Inc. regarding access to a municipal water supply; while several options are available, it has been determined that a solution to this problem should wait until further development of the site has occurred.

Promote a historic preservation ethic and emphasize heritage awareness.

See reported that, due to additional assistance from the NPS and careful decision making, \$128,324 is available for the Heritage Grant program, an increase from the earlier reported (April) value of \$105,000. Because of this, all twenty-one grant applicants received some funding, a first for the program. To date, ten of the twenty-one grants have been disbursed, and the remainder will be distributed by the end of the month.

See then presented the puzzling situation of bus grant money—offered to schools to help defray the cost of field trips to the NPS Visitor Center or any of the partner sites—not being as readily accepted as anticipated. Four field trips from Houghton schools were funded, but only at See's insistence, and more work will be undertaken to address the efficacy of this program.

In addition, as a result of several local talks about the smelter and Cliff Mine given by See, he has been invited to speak at a meeting of the Michigan Municipal League in Marquette in October about the work of the Commission.

Finally, See noted that his short article about the smelter, paired with an aerial photo (Nathan Miller), was published on the front page of the park newsletter.

Develop the Commission into a sustainable operating organization.

See reported that neither funding requests submitted by Superintendent Pflaum were funded during the first round of contingency fund disbursements from the regional office, but that the requests would be resubmitted for year-end funding.

Further, the five-year report is now printed and will be distributed to stakeholders in the near future. See expressed his thanks to Commissioner Hoagland and Tom Baker for their work towards this end.

Finally, See reported that he has transitioned the Commission from handwritten checks to QuickBooks printed checks in the interest of universal legibility.

Discussion following Executive Director's Report

Commissioner Langseth echoed the gratitude directed to Commissioner Hoagland and Tom Baker for their work on the five-year report.

Commissioner Johnson proposed that See attend a school board meeting to raise awareness of the school bus granting program.

Comments from Paul Lehto, Calumet Township

Paul Lehto reported that he had applied for three grants with the DNR, and that a representative will be in town Monday to tour the three subject sites: the Railroad Depot, the Colosseum, and the Drill Shop. Specifically, the grants are being sought for the acquisition and stabilization of the Railroad Depot, for a three-year project to install new sideboards in the Colosseum, and for the construction of a new floor for the Drill Shop. There is in place a grant from the Advisory Commission for doorway accessibility at the Drill Shop, and the curling club intends to build an indoor warming room, which will receive local matching funds. Furthermore, the Calumet High School ROTC intends to install a heated portion of the Drill Shop for archery, indoor horseshoe, and a pellet range, undertaken with some Federal funding that is already in place.

Lehto then presented an impressive, but not exhaustive, listing of buildings maintained by Calumet Township: the Drill Shop, the old State Police Post, the No. 2 Warehouse, the Captain's Office, the Sand Storage Building, St. Anne's, the Colosseum, the Swedetown ponds and ski trails, and the Calumet Dam project. He continued by noting that this is a real feat for a municipality or a township of this size, and stated that Calumet Township is in need of help for many of these projects.

Lehto proposed a possible partial solution for funding: that the Commission, in concert with the Park Service, purchase the vacant property on south Sixth Street in Calumet, currently owned largely by Calumet Township and by Coppertown Mining Museum, with proceeds to be dedicated for the historic preservation of Township properties.

Commissioner Johnson expressed an interest in acquiring from Paul Lehto a listing of the at-risk historical sites, ranked in order of importance, to which Lehto replied that there is such a list, created some years ago with Bob Langseth, but furthermore, it would be useful to have a list of "contributing properties," those properties that most contribute to the National Park effort.

Commissioner Langseth expressed the Commission's gratitude for Lehto's determination and dedication to the Township's historical importance.

Commission Committees and Projects

Announcements / Executive

The Commission congratulated Scott See on his five-year anniversary with the Advisory Commission.

The Commission also congratulated Commissioner Sue Dana for winning the Rita Finch Community Service Award from the Village of Calumet.

Approval of Financial Report

Approval of the July 15, 2014 financial report, including bills in the amount of \$150,975.67 and \$17,220.02 in wages and tax payments, as presented, was moved by Stephen Albee and seconded by Bob Langseth. The bills for the quarter included \$128,325 in grant payments as part of the Heritage Grant Program. **Motion carried unanimously. (5/0).**

Development

The development report was covered in the Executive Director's Report.

Partnerships

A motion to authorize Executive Director Scott See to notify Franklin Township that the Commission is ready to exercise the previously approved option agreement and would like to schedule a closing date for the purchase of the Quincy Smelter property was moved by John Sullivan and seconded by Stephen Albee. **Motion carried unanimously. (5/0).**

Preservation-Stewardship

Nothing to report.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Mike Pflaum expressed his thanks to the Advisory Commission and the Community for their interest in the Keweenaw NHP.

Pflaum began with an overview of a number of selected projects currently underway around the park this summer.

The Italian Hall site improvements are being managed by landscape architect Steve DeLong, who reports that this project, undertaken cooperatively with the Village of Calumet and valued at approximately \$38,000, is about 75% complete. The old asphalt has been removed and grass planted in its place.

New identification signs have been installed at the Calumet Visitor Center. This improvement, long sought after, will help aid visitors in locating the Visitor Center. This \$4,500 project was paid for with base Park funds.

A \$39,000 project to stabilize the Russell Snow Plow is underway. While this is a smaller-scale project than was hoped for, this basic stabilization and limited interpretation will help to keep this interesting and unique resource preserved until further funding is available.

A pending project aimed at reducing mechanical system noise affecting the Meeting Room on the third floor of the Visitor Center, estimated at \$27,000, with an anticipated contract award date by late August and work to be completed this season.

The last project highlighted by Pflaum, currently in the planning phase, is a partnership project with the Quincy Mine Hoist Association. The \$35,000 for this project came from a settlement between the EPA and a utility company in Wisconsin that was passed on to the Park Service and will be used for a photovoltaic array to illuminate the mine.

Pflaum reported that there is not a Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program this summer. Previously, the YCC program was funded through resources secured by a competitive process, and the Park was unsuccessful this year. Pflaum, however, noted the importance of the program to youth, to the Park, and to its partners, and expressed hope in its revival in the future, regardless of the funding source.

The Visitor Center has been open 9:00 to 5:00, seven days a week since mid-June, and it is the Park's intent to keep this schedule through the end of September. The average daily count for

the month of June (for open days) was 42 visitors, while for the month of July, to date, the average has been 93 visitors per day. Pflaum expressed his hope that the new signage will further boost visitor numbers.

Thanks to a better than anticipated budget, this summer features a greater number of ranger-led interpretive and educational programs than last summer, at both Ft. Wilkins State Historical Park, a Heritage Site partner, and at McLain State Park. These programs are being advertised locally with posters, as well as on the Park website. These weekly programs are offered Wednesdays at Ft. Wilkins and Fridays at McLain, and are a great outreach opportunity.

Two potential land acquisition requests for the Park are being pursued with Land and Water Conservation Fund- money: the blacksmith shop and machine shop at Quincy Hill, currently owned by the QMHA, and the small parking lot immediately north of the Visitor Center, owned by Kissel Chevrolet. At this time, approval is in place only to explore the acquisition of these properties. This process will take many months, and it is possible that the properties will not be acquired, but it is the first time in several years that the Park has been able to tap these funds and explore possibilities.

On May 8th, Brian Hoduski, Chief Museum and Archival Services, convened a meeting for the Lake Superior Collections Management Center (LSCMC), currently involving Keweenaw NHP, Isle Royale NP, and Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, for jointly managing the museum collections of the participant parks in a way that meets all National Park Service standards.

At Pflaum's invitation, Hoduski expanded on his work with LSCMC, including some background on the project. The Center had been a topic of discussion for more than two years, but its existence was only recently approved by the Regional Office in January when the charter that governs the operations of the multi-park museum operation was signed by the acting regional director. The May meeting was the inaugural board meeting, consisting of Hoduski as advisor to the board of four voting members (the three park superintendents and the regional curator). A short term goal of this consortium is to improve storage for these three parks, and through combined efforts, leverage line-item construction money to develop the Warehouse as the multi-park storage facility. In the interim, Hoduski serves in a technical advisory capacity.

The 12th annual High School Local History Smackdown was held on April 24th at the Finnish American Heritage Center in Hancock, and continues to be a wonderful event and a great way to encourage the community and young people to be involved in local history. There were ten teams competing this year, plus around 90 audience members, a number which nearly filled the venue, new to this year. Baraga High School took the trophy this year, a first!

The Labor and Immigration History Institute workshop will be hosted at the Park this year, from July 27th to August 1st, with four expert presenters and 20 educators from a wide area.

Finally, a park- wide interpretive planning effort that includes all of the Heritage Site partners will be launched the week of September 22nd. This multi-year process will serve to further unify the components of the Park and emphasize the value and importance of being a part of the Park through connecting the stories that each of the Heritage Sites tells as a part of the greater whole of a nationally significant story.

Discussion following Superintendent's Report

Brian Hoduski added to his earlier report on the LSCMC, noting that another point of discussion at the board meeting was to aggregate what the Heritage Sites collections represent, so that he

may communicate more accurately to the agency the scope of his technical assistance responsibilities; the sum, he noted, would be a very large collection of materials on the Copper Country. Commissioner Hoagland inquired about how a value might be arrived at, and Director See suggested that any listing would necessarily be a “living document” that evolves over time as new information can be contributed. See further noted that this sort of aggregation is representative a unique part of the operation of the Park: that it is the material that all the Heritage Sites own that is important to the story, not only the material that the Park Service owns.

Other reports from Commissioners

Commissioner Allan Johnson acknowledged the importance of the Cliff Mine and its direct relevance to the work of the Park. Johnson noted with pleasure the recognition being given it, and reported that a group of eleven was at the Cliff Mine on the day prior, and noted that it is being given serious consideration for being preserved in its present condition. Virginia Jamison offered upon inquiry that the Eagle River Museum Committee has several very good historians that will be leading tours of the Cliff. Johnson further stated that Scott See is taking the lead on the project for the Advisory Commission, and See acknowledged that the time was nigh to have a conservation about its preservation and interpretation.

Commissioner Bob Langseth reported that he had visited the offices of Senators Stabenow and Levin in Washington, D.C., and shared with them the five-year success story of the work of the Commission, and further articulated the beneficial economic impact of the Park and its visitors to the community and across the state.

In addition, Langseth noted that he has found a listing of organizations that are supporting the Labor History Foundation, and that these groups may be able to helpful to the work done locally, in particular with regard to the Italian Hall site.

Langseth also reported that the upcoming 20th anniversary of the Keweenaw Heritage Center is August 12th. Tickets for supper and the evening program are available for \$35 and can be purchased at the Center during open hours, and many invitations are being sent out.

Another noteworthy even in the near future, the Bete Grise Preserve will be hosting a celebration of its expansion on August 17th. The dedication will be at 2:00 p.m. at Point Isabelle, followed by a community picnic at 3:00.

Finally, Langseth expressed his interest in and concern for the preservation of the stamp sands, and noted that while the stamp sands are outside of the Park boundary, they are within the bounds of the history that the Park relates, much as is Cliff Mine, which is deservedly receiving attention of the Advisory Commission. Langseth quoted Larry Langton as long ago saying that “we are losing the visual sermons” for the historic nature of the Park, and stated that for this reason, among others, the preservation of the stamp sands is a high personal priority.

Commissioner Stephen Albee presented comments on behalf of Jean Pemberton of the Copper Range Historical Society. For the 4th of July, Wil Shapton and Red Jacket Trolley Co. conducted two, one-hour tours of the south side of the Copper Country, including the towns of South Range, Baltic, Trimountain and Painesdale. Albee himself was on the second tour and noted that many of the riders enthusiastically contributed to the tour as it was underway, drawing from their

own experiences and memories of the history of the area, and reported that the tours in general were very well received and successful.

Commissioner John Sullivan reported on improvements made over the past year at the historic Calumet Fire Station, dating from 1898. Working with a \$15,000 grant from the Americana Foundation and contributing \$5,000 of their own funds, the electrical system was upgraded and the second floor was drywalled and painted. In addition, with a \$2,100 matching Keweenaw Heritage Grant from the Advisory Commission, the Fire Station was able to hire a Michigan Tech student to create an inventory and catalog of the archives.

Sullivan also reported that the Quincy Mine Hoist Association is working on a preservation project at the hoist house involving the original concrete structure of the historic building, using a \$200,000 Rural Development loan.

Before moving on, Superintendent Mike Pflaum took the opportunity to report on the status of the Park's Facebook page, stating that the number of pageviews has been dramatically increasing of late, with a recent post receiving around 25,000 views. Pflaum encouraged everyone to spread the word, and to "like" the page joining the 1,300 followers already in place. Virginia Jamison suggested that a link from the Park web page to the Facebook page could be useful and helpful.

Comments from Legislators or Legislative Staff

Amy Berglund, congressional staffer for Senator Levin, began by congratulating the Commission on its pending acquisition of the Quincy Smelter, and noted that the Senator would be pleased to see the efforts come to fruition. Scott See expressed the collective gratitude towards the Senator for his continued support of the Advisory Commission.

Berglund reported that there is little news on the budget for this year to date, and that the Senator is working hard at securing several other concerns by the end of the term. Berglund is furthermore following up on some topics raised in the discussions between Commissioner Langseth and the Senators.

In addition, Berglund called attention to regular meetings held by the Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Quality regarding the stamp sands at Gay, and offered to forward her contacts at these meetings to the Commission, noting in particular that the DEQ has received some permit applications for removal of stamp sand.

Finally, Berglund made the observation that many teachers are responsible for organizing their own field trips and suggested that See perhaps meet with teachers in person to raise awareness of the Bus Grant program.

Comments from Keweenaw Heritage Site Representatives

Virginia Jamison of the Keweenaw County Historical Society began by thanking Mike Pflaum for his help the week prior in presenting a program at Gay School, to an attendance of around 60. Jamison continued to thank Brian Hoduski for his assistance with two time-capsule related inquiries: first, how best to create and install a time capsule into the foundation of the Phoenix Church, nearing completion, and second, how to open a time capsule, now 100 years old,

retrieved from the Douglass Houghton Monument in Eagle River. The opening ceremony is to be held the 24th of August.

The Phoenix Church preservation work is almost finished, and the church is again level and perimeter skirting is being installed to keep animals out of the foundation.

The Douglass Houghton Monument is going to be tuck pointed, and the bronze plaque will be polished; in addition, a sign is going to be made illustrating the stones of the monument and their origins, using information from a 1915 article. Kim Hoagland emphasized the importance of consulting the Park for technical assistance on the tuck pointing project.

The sesquicentennial of the founding of the Knights of Pythias is another celebration that will be hosted this year.

Finally, Jamison reported that the Keweenaw County Historical Society website now has a direct link to its Facebook page, and noted in particular that on Thursdays a “then and now” photo couplet is posted, and that the 4th of July posting of 6th Street in Calumet garnered 20,000 hits.

Comments from the Public

Judy Albee expressed her pleasure at the increase in number of visitors to the Visitor Center this year, and noted also that additional nearby parking would be a welcome addition to many visitors, especially on rainy days.

Albee further contributed to the conversation regarding the seemingly lackadaisical response to the Bus Grant program, noting that there are many State education requirements that need to be addressed, and consequently there is less time available for field trips that do not directly pertain to those requirements. She continued by reporting a recent summer school field trip to the Visitor Center.

Scott See replied that he has spoken with people from the Great Explorations summer school program in the past, and reiterated the puzzling challenge of getting schools to seek the Bus Grant funding.

Anita Campbell reported that Senator Levin was invited to the Bete Grise preserve celebration, and expressed her hope to Amy Berglund that he would be able to attend.

Libby Iverson, currently of Lexington, Kentucky after noting that her husband Eric’s family has a long history in the area, reported the utility of a Facebook page in helping a large and widespread keep in touch with each other and with a place through the conversations that evolve surrounding postings.

Iverson also commented on the Bus Grant concern, and reiterated earlier comments on the importance of core content, and asked if the field trips were, or could be, tied to the established core content.

Scott See replied that there has been some work on this in the past, especially with regards to the exhibits at the Visitor Center, but acknowledged that perhaps more could be done to do so; See further reinforced his earlier, primary concern that schools are apparently simply reluctant for nonobvious reasons to seek Bus Grant funds, noting that school buses are often sighted at Heritage Partner sites—but that they aren’t seeking funding.

Lastly, Iverson reported that she is friends with a potentially useful contact for the Park, Amy Marquis, who is a filmmaker working on various projects in and about the National Parks. Mike Pflaum noted that the appropriate contact for Marquis would be Tom Baker, the Management Assistant at the Park.

Bob Langseth reported that Calumet High School will be reinstituting a local history class next year, focusing on a project that is going to create a virtual reality reconstruction of 5th Street in Calumet, c. 1910.

Kristine Bradof, Isle Royale and Keweenaw Parks Association, reported that as part of their annual meeting on Isle Royale on July 26th, the Association has arranged a tour of Chippewa Harbor guided by members of the last remaining island fishing families. The boat can accommodate 36 people, and the tour will be, of course, subject to weather.

Motion to Adjourn

At 10:31 a.m., a motion to adjourn was called by Stephen Albee and seconded by Allan Johnson.

Motion carried unanimously. (5/0).

Next Meeting

Tuesday, October 21st, 2014.