**Meeting February 12, 2019**

Present: Commissioners

Amy Berglund, at-large (by phone)

Karin Cooper, Houghton County

Dave Geisler, Village of Calumet

Bob Langseth, Calumet Township

Scott MacInnes, State of Michigan

John Sullivan, Franklin and Quincy Townships

Absent: Larry Lankton, at-large

Present: Executive Director

Scott See

Present: National Park Service

Wendy Davis, Superintendent

Present: Recording Secretary

John Arnold

Present: Guests

Judy Albee

Steve Albee

Brian Hoduski, Chief of Museum Services, Keweenaw National Historical Park

Ginny Schubert, Keweenaw County Historical Society

**Call to Order**

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was called

to order at 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 12, 2019, at the Keweenaw NHP Headquarters in

Calumet, Michigan.

**Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Bob Langseth and seconded by Dave Geisler to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried unanimously. (6/0).

Approval of Minutes of October 17, 2018

Moved by Langseth and seconded by Karin Cooper to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion carried unanimously. (6/0).

**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 began by reporting that work is underway by Quinn Evans Architects (QEA) to revise the

amendment to the Quincy National Historic Landmark, and completing the first draft of the

Calumet National Historic Landmark amendment. The Commission expects to receive a review

set of documents later this month.

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

**See noted that the fall Heritage Site meeting was held in October, and 15 of the 21 Heritage Sites**

were represented by attendance. In addition to the regular Site updates, the meeting included a

presentation on the NPS Common Learning Portal, an update from our Volunteer Ambassador

Alan McTaggart, and an educational session on the flood recovery efforts at the Houghton

County Historical Society.

The Commission provided a travel grant to help Matt Portfleet from the Adventure Mine to

attend the International Conference of Mining and Underground Museums held at the Wieliczka

Salt Mine in Poland. Portfleet’s presentation on the Adventure Mine highlighted some of their

creative tourism approaches. The Adventure Mine was the only attendee from the United States

out of about 200 participating organizations. Portfleet reported that, “…the level of support for

some of the sites from the European Union is impressive, and the visitor attendance to many of

the sites is incredible. Just the Wieliczka mine receives over 1,700,000 guests per year...with

their annual budget in the ballpark of $60,000,000 US dollars!”

**Develop partnerships that provide visitors with a cohesive, accessible, and engaging**

**national park experience along the entire length of the Keweenaw.**

See reported that REJ Contracting has completed virtually all of the identified improvement

projects at the Quincy smelter funded by the Quincy Smelter Association’s $16,000 grant last

fall, with only the warehouse roof repairs remaining to be completed in the spring.

Last September, the Finnish bluegrass band Steve N’ Seagulls filmed a video at the smelter the

day after they performed at the Rozsa. and the video had about 328,000 views on YouTube.

See noted that the Commission has received a proposal from MannikSmith for lead-based paint

remediation work at the smelter, and See will be reviewing the proposal with local and regional

NPS staff members. Work will begin at the site as soon as the snow is gone, with the aim to have

the work substantially complete before the tours start on Memorial Day.

Steve DeLong and See toured the results of the Environmental Protection Agency cleanup at

Quincy Mill in Mason. See reported that the EPA’s On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Brian Kelly

and his contractors did a fantastic job removing hazardous waste and miscellaneous debris from

the site. Although the site is privately owned and not open to the public, it does receive a fair

amount of visitation.

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

The 2019 Heritage Grant Program was announced the first week of February. $135,000 in grant

funds are available, which is down slightly from last year. Similar to previous years, proposed

projects must be located within the legislated boundaries of Keweenaw National Historical Park;

affiliated with a Keweenaw Heritage Site; and/or located at the Cliff Mine, Torch Lake, or the

community of Painesdale. Applicants must be a designated Keweenaw Heritage Site

organization, a non-profit organization, a local or regional government, an academic institution,

or a federally recognized Indian tribe. Applications are due on April 5th and money will be

available by June 1st.

Over the last quarter, See gave or participated in a number of presentations about the park.

Superintendent Davis and See visited Michigan Tech and discussed various ways to work with

the University on projects of common interests. In addition, See gave a lunch presentation to the

Houghton Kiwanis Club, and presented a lecture to the History of the Copper Country class at

Michigan Tech.

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

Finally, See announced that before the end of the year the Advisory Commission received the

$100,000 donation that our anonymous donor pledged earlier in the year. This donation provides

the bulk of the funding for our grant program. In addition, the Commission received an

anonymous donation of $10,000 with instructions to spend it on the Quincy Smelter. See

expressed his gratitude for both of the donations, and noted that he continues to be impressed

with public support received for the mission.

**Commission Committees and Projects**

**Announcements / Executive**

Moved by Scott MacInnes and seconded by Karin Cooper to appoint Dave Geisler as KNHP

Advisory Commission representative to the Village of Calumet Historic District Commission.

Motion carried unanimously. (6/0).

**Budget / Finance**

John Sullivan reported that the Commission has reviewed the financial statements and quarterly

bills, from October 18, 2018 to February 12, 2019.

Moved by Sullivan and seconded by MacInnes to approve bills in the amount of $26,521.43, plus

wages and tax payments of $19,868.14 for $46,489.57 total. Motion carried unanimously.

(6/0).

**Superintendent’s Report**

Superintendent Wendy Davis provided an overview of recent news and summaries of key

accomplishments of the various park divisions.

Davis began by reporting that visitation is up by around 30% this year over last, and noted that

there are numerous projects upcoming and underway, including the conclusion of the restoration

of the heritage landscape at the Quincy Mining Company office building in Hancock and the

rehabilitation of Warehouse #1 into the multipark curatorial facility (the consolidated Lake

Superior Collection Management Center, or LSCMC). In addition, the park is looking forward to

substantial federal funding over the next several years on a number of related projects. Davis

noted that the park will strive to hire locally for this work, and that the community as a whole

can benefit from these investments.

Further, Davis noted that the the 17th annual High School Local History Smackdown is scheduled

for April 25th, with participating teams from around the area, and that this year will see a reprise

of the very successful “Copper TRACES” program that brings hundreds of children to the park

to learn from the Heritage Sites, area communities, and the park itself about the history of the

Copper Country; this event will take place May 13-16th.

Finally, The Quincy Mine Hoist Association, Keweenaw National Historical Park, and

Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission are jointly hosting a National

Endowment for the Humanities traveling exhibit. The exhibit, Jacob A. Riis: How the Other Half

Lives, will be on display at the Calumet Visitor Center from September 3 – October 20.

**Other reports from Commissioners**

Commissioner Sullivan reported that the Copper Country Firefighters History Museum is

looking to hire a summer intern to assist in the creation of exhibits for a self-guided walking tour

at the center; interested parties may contact the museum directly.

Commissioner Langseth noted that this summer marks the 25th anniversary of the development

of Keweenaw Heritage Center at St. Anne’s, and that there will be a commemorative celebration

in June.

Commissioner Geisler reported on several noteworthy items. On January 22, the Village of

Calumet received official notice that the state will be awarding $1,074,000 in grant funds

towards a $1.2 million infrastructure project along Elm Street. The Village is planning to update

the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) development plan that has been in place since

2003; the state of Michigan offers competitive grants for façade improvements to DDAs with

their own façade grant programs in place. The Village has signed a nonbinding agreement to

acquire the “Sachs lot” property on 5th St to develop as an open greenspace. The Village is

applying for recertification as a Certified Local Government, a designation that makes the

Village eligible for substantial funding opportunities towards a variety of preservation activities.

Finally, the Village has applied for recognition by the state of Michigan as a “Redevelopment

Ready Community” through a certification program that encourages best practices for

management and redevelopment and offers additional opportunities for state aid.

**Comments from Legislators or Legislative Staff**

Nothing to report.

**Comments from Keweenaw Heritage Site Representatives**

Nothing to report.

**Comments from the Public**

Nothing to report.

**Motion to Adjourn**

Moved to adjourn by Langseth, and seconded by MacInnes at 1:37 p.m. Motion carried

unanimously. (6/0).

**Next Meeting**

Wednesday, April 16, 2019.