**Meeting January 28, 2020**

Present: Commissioners

Amy Berglund, at-large

Karin Cooper, Houghton County

Dave Geisler, Village of Calumet

Bob Langseth, Calumet Township

Larry Lankton, at-large

Scott MacInnes, State of Michigan

John Sullivan, Quincy and Franklin Townships

Absent: None

Present: Executive Director

Sean Gohman

Present: National Park Service

Wendy Davis, Superintendent

Present: Recording Secretary

John Arnold

Present: Guests

Judy Albee

Steve Albee, Former Commissioner

Jean Ellis, Keweenaw Heritage Center

Jerry Hintz

Karen Hintz, Keweenaw County Historical Society

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

Emily Riippa, Michigan Tech Archives

**Call to Order**

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

to order at 1:02 p.m., Tuesday, January 28, 2020, at the Keweenaw NHP Headquarters in

Calumet, Michigan.

**Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Larry Lankton and seconded by Scott MacInnes to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried unanimously. (7/0).

**Approval of Minutes of October 15, 2019**

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

Motion carried unanimously. (7/0).

**Executive Director’s Report**

Executive Director Sean Gohman 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.**

Gohman reported on his recent visit to Omaha with Superintendent Davis to meet with the new

Midwest Regional Director, Bert Frost. The meeting’s purpose was to introduce the Advisory

Commission and its unique relationship with KNHP as well as discuss a few items of

importance, primarily the status of the Quincy Smelting Works property. Regional Director Frost

was informed of the smelter’s history, both as a site of production and its current status as a

Commission-owned site of interpretation receiving various stabilization and environmental

remediation measures. Gohman and Superintendent Davis also updated Frost on possible uses

for the smelter, including its use as a site for an Isle Royal National Park headquarters and

visitor’s center, a Keweenaw visitor center/discovery zone, or as a National Park-owned and

operated interpretive facility. It is hoped that with this information, Regional Director Frost and

the Midwest Regional Office will move to take action on acquiring the smelter, a transaction that

the Advisory Commission would welcome after five years of stewardship.

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

The Fall Heritage Site Meeting was held on October 23rd, 2019. Gohman noted that this meeting

matched the highest-ever Heritage Site attendance (set in Spring 2019), with 29 attendees

representing 18 of the 21 Heritage Sites. KNHP Chief of Interpretation Kathleen Harter and

Katie Keller led two workshops on “non-personal interpretation services” (self-guided tours) and

the Park’s education programs.

In November, the commission announced the availability of Travel Grants of up to $300 to those

affiliated with Heritage Sites to attend conferences and workshops. These grants were to be

applied for in January and awarded in February, but with some interest shown to events coming

up this fall, the acceptance of grant applications has been extended later into the spring.

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

national park experience along the entire length of the Keweenaw.

A draft of the Phase I Environmental Site of the Quincy Smelting Works site has been received.

The Midwest Regional Office initiated the report, and the document will help inform discussions

about the possible transfer of the smelter property to the NPS. The draft is awaiting comments by

NPS staff so that a completed report can be submitted in the near future.

During summer of 2019, the first phase of an ongoing lead-based paint abatement project at the

Quincy Smelting Works was completed with the submission of a Due Care Documentation

Report. This work focused primarily on issues in the Office Building, but work extended to the

Pump House, Boiler Room and Engine Room of the Cupola Building as well. A second phase of

work is currently in the planning stages with the goal of a spring 2020 start. Work will again

focus on the Office Building, as well as extending to the Laboratory Building, and will also

address lead-impacted soils surrounding several buildings on site.

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

The Commission recently announced the 13th annual Heritage Grant Program. This year,

125,000 in grants will be offered. The Commission and NPS staff are available to answer

questions regarding the grants, and provide technical assistance in the completion of

applications.

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

Gohman reported that in November 2019 he submitted information to Senator Gary Peters’

office to assist in drafting language for an upcoming bill that will include a request for an

increase in the Advisory Commission’s yearly authorization. This increase would dramatically

enhance the Advisory Commission’s ability to meet its mission, and potentially provide funds

that could be directed to projects involving historic preservation, interpretation, education and

research, and organizational stability.

**Commission Committees and Projects**

**Announcements / Executive**

Dave Geisler reported that a slate of Commission officers had been selected.

Moved by Bob Langseth and seconded by Amy Berglund to approve Dave Geisler for Chair,

Larry Lankton for Vice Chair, Karin Cooper for Secretary, and John Sullivan for Treasurer for

the Commission. Motion carried unanimously. (7/0).

**Budget / Finance**

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

bills, from October 16, 2019 to January 28, 2020.

Moved by Sullivan and seconded by MacInnes to approve bills in the amount of $19,977.29, plus

wages and tax payments of $18,885.92 for $57,749.13 total. Motion carried unanimously.

(7/0).

**Superintendent’s Report**

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

accomplishments of the various park divisions.

Davis reported that planning for the rehabilitation of the C&H Warehouse #1 into the multipark

curatorial facility (the consolidated Lake Superior Collection Management Center, or LSCMC)

continues; it is anticipated that he concept plan will be ready for review by NPS by this summer.

This summer, an intern from the NPS Abandoned Mineral Lands (AML), a program focused on

both public safety and preservation work, will be in the area to inventory resources for the AML

database.

KNHP has begun preplanning work on defining the park’s final boundaries; since its inception,

the park has been working within “provisional boundaries.” Relatedly, Davis reported that the

previously-reported National Historic Landmark (NHL) boundary amendment for the Quincy

Unit of KNHP will be presented in a public meeting this fall; work on the Calumet Unit is

underway.

Davis reported on several other projects underway, including work with the Keweenaw Bay

Indian Community to develop a traveling exhibit about the history of treaties in the area, ongoing

work on the Calumet Area Trails Project, and an interpretive trail project at Quincy mine.

Davis noted several park staffing changes. Education coordinator Katie Keller will be returning

to Isle Royale National Park, but the project she spearheaded at KNHP, Copper Traces, will

continue. Chris St. Martin, facilities head at KNHP, has taken a job elsewhere, and Historical

Architect John Rosemurgy has moved to a new position with the Midwest Regional Office, and

these positions will be open and posted to USAJobs, the federal government’s official

employment site.

Finally, Davis graciously expressed her gratitude to outgoing Commissioners Langseth for his

role in the establishment of the park and his support over the years in tending its growth and

maturation, and MacInnes for his work and insight over his terms of service with the

Commission.

**Other reports from Commissioners**

Commissioner Langseth, in noting that today was to be his last day as a Commissioner,

recounted a brief history of the origins of the park, and thanked everyone for their hard work and

involvement over the years.

Commissioner Sullivan presented the following resolution:

Whereas the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission did

purchase the 16-acre Quincy Smelter site with community funds, and whereas the

prime purpose of the purchase was to secure the land for transfer to the National

Park Service which allows the National Park Service to relocate the Isle Royale

National Park to the vacant eight acres on the east side of the smelter site and at

the same time allows the Keweenaw National Historical Park to own the Quincy

Smelter Facilities.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Keweenaw National Historical Park

Advisory Commission requests the National Park Service Regional Director to

accept the transfer of the 16-acre Quincy Smelter site to the National Park

Service and to move the Isle Royale National Park headquarters and facilities to

the vacant eight acres on the Quincy Smelter site.

Moved by Sullivan and seconded by MacInnes to adopt this resolution. Motion carried

unanimously. (7/0).

Commissioner Berglund, thanked outgoing Commissioner Langseth for his years of dedicated

service. Berglund also reported that legislation has been introduced into the state senate to

reinstate the state historic tax credits.

Commissioner MacInnes echoed Berglund’s gratitude towards Commissioner Langseth, and as

an outgoing Commissioner himself, thanked the Commission all of their hard work.

Commissioner Lankton called attention to the unparalleled visual overview of the Quincy

Mining Company operations that could be provided to visitors from the west side of US 41, but

noted the difficulty of safely crossing the highway on foot at this location.

Moved by Lankton and seconded by MacInnes that the Quincy Mine Hoist Association, the

National Park Service, and Michigan Department of Transportation be approached to begin

studying the idea of constructing a tunnel beneath US 41. Motion carried unanimously. (7/0).

Commissioner Cooper also expressed her appreciation for Reverend Langseth, and thanked

Commissioner MacInnes for his service on the Commission.

Commissioner Geisler reported that four property owners in the Village of Calumet have applied

for and received Community Block Development Grant funding for preservation work and

façade improvement. The Village has proposals in to the Redevelopment Ready Community

Program to update the Downtown Development Authority Plan, the Tax Increment Finance

district plan, and the Zoning Ordinance, which dates to 1997 and is in need of updating. Geisler

closed by underscoring the collective gratitude to Commissioners Langseth and MacInnes for all

their work for the park and on the Commission.

**Comments from Legislators or Legislative Staff**

Nothing to report.

**Comments from Keweenaw Heritage Site Representatives**

Jean Ellis reported that the Keweenaw Heritage Center will be presenting an exhibit on women

in the Keweenaw in coordination with the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th

Amendment.

Karen Hintz, Vice President of the Keweenaw County Historical Society, thanked John

Rosemurgy and John Sullivan for their help with securing a Michigan Lighthouse Assistance

Grant that was used for window rehabilitation work at the Eagle Harbor Lighthouse, and thanked

the Advisory Commission for the recently received Heritage Grants that are funding several

projects. Hintz also noted that the Houghton Rotary Club will be hosting a Copper Mining

Heritage Tour on August 8th of this year, working with Sean Gohman and several other Industrial

Archeologists to establish what is hoped to be an annual fundraising event that will share

proceeds with the Advisory Commission’s Heritage Grant Fund.

Comments from the Public

Brian Hoduski gave a heartfelt thanks to Commissioner Langseth for all of his work for and with

the park over the years.

**Motion to Adjourn**

Moved to adjourn by MacInnes, and seconded by Sullivan at 2:11 p.m. Motion carried

unanimously. (7/0).

**Next Meeting**

Tuesday, April 21, 2020.