**Meeting Conducted remotely via video conference**

**November 17, 2020**

Present: Commissioners

Glenn Anderson, State of Michigan

Karin Cooper, Houghton County

Dave Geisler, Village of Calumet

Gerald Juntunen, at-large

Dan Jamison, at-large

Absent: John Sullivan, Franklin and Quincy Townships

Keith Koppernolle, Calumet Township

Present: Executive Director

Sean Gohman (also recording Secretary)

Present: National Park Service

Wendy Davis, Superintendent

Present: Guests

Amy Berglund, former Commissioner, now with Invest UP

Karen Hintz, Keweenaw County Historical Society

Lindsay Hiltunen, Archivist, Michigan Tech Archives

Note: Attendees noted above as “present” were in virtual attendance for the duration of the

meeting.

**Call to Order**

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

remotely at 1:11 p.m., Tuesday, November 17, 2020.

**Approval of Agenda**

Move Superintendent’s Report to top of agenda. Moved by Glenn Anderson and seconded by

Dan Jamison to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously. (5/0).

Approval of Minutes of April 21, 2020.

Moved by Karin Cooper and seconded by Glenn Anderson to table an approval of the minutes of

November 21, 2020, until the next regular meeting of the Advisory Commission. Motion

carried unanimously. (5/0).

**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 the park continues to operate under the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic,

with all staff primarily teleworking. The visitor’s center remains closed until further notice, with

operational review taking place every 15 days to determine the viability of reopening. The

visitors’ center is ordinarily closed in winter due to staffing shortages anyway, and hope that it

can reopen in the spring.

Calumet National Historic Landmark updating is in draft review in Washington, while the

Quincy NHL update is ready for public comment. Awaiting a safe time for when to conduct a

public meeting.

Planning is ongoing for a better “look and feel” for the parking lot next to the visitors’ center.

Along with this, discussions with Calumet stakeholders to better inform visitors in terms of

wayfinding and recreation in the area.

In addition, the youth work crew cleared over 3 miles of abandoned rail grade at Quincy Mine

for future interpretive trails as well as brush clearing around the industrial core of Calumet.

The Park has updated its website, and is cooperating with NPS to create a new mobile app that

will contain info for both the park and Heritage Sites. The app should launch in the beginning of

2021.

**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.**

I am continuing to work with the National Park Service and Quinn Evans in developing updated

National Historic Landmark nominations for Calumet and Hecla Mining Company Historic

District and Quincy Mining Company Historic District. This work began over two years ago and

is now approaching completion. The Quincy nomination is nearly complete, with just a public

information meeting on the update needed. This has of course been postponed due to the ongoing

Coivd-19 pandemic. The Calumet nomination is nearly completed, with a final draft currently

receiving final comments. These updated nominations will assist the Park in its management of

the two Park units, inform park boundary adjustments as needed, and more accurately capture

these districts as they are today.

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

The Fall Heritage Site meeting took place on November 12th. This meeting was conducted over

Zoom and had 22 participants representing 13 Heritage Sites and other associated organizations.

The meeting consisted of a discussion of covid-related adaptations made by Heritage Sites

during the summer and fall, followed by presentation from Brad Barnett from the Keweenaw

Convention and Visitors Bureau, and a discussion led by Kathleen Harter of the Park Service

devoted to making risk assessments when planning for events, meetings, etc..

It was also during this meeting that regular workshops, hosted by the Advisory Commission and

led by Park Service staff, would be conducted via Zoom. Topics such as site bulletin creation,

photography, and managing social media will be covered.

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

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

Our environmental contractors, Mannik-Smith Group and Clean Harbors completed the second

phase of a multi-phase lead-based paint abatement project at the Quincy Smelter. This fall, Clean

Harbors focused efforts on the Assay Office, removing lead paint and dust both inside and out,

washing surfaces, and applying encapsulant to the walls. Work was also conducted on the

smelter barn located across from the office building. The white encapsulant paint has

dramatically altered the appearance of the barn’s interior and especially the interior spaces of the

Assay Office. This will improve both visitor access and safety, as well as provide a “clean” space

for the interpretation of the Assay Office’s related artifacts and machinery.

Earlier this month, interpretive signage was placed at Gay to interpret ongoing environmental

remediation work to mitigate the impacts of eroding mine tailings into Lake Superior, Buffalo

Reed, and Traverse Bay. The sign was created with cooperation from Michigan’s Environment,

Great Lakes & Energy department (EGLE), Keweenaw National Historical Park, the Keweenaw

County Historical Society, and the Advisory Commission. The sign is posted next to the

Mohawk Mill stack, and briefly covers the site’s industrial history, the impact the sands have on

the lake, and the work to remove and regrade the sands to mitigate further erosion. Work at Gay

is ongoing, and it is hoped that this is just the start of a larger, more holistic interpretation project

at the site that benefits the public and the lake itself.

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

In June we completed our 13th annual Heritage Grant Program. We received 24 applications

requesting $236,043 in grant funds. In the end, the grant review committee awarded 17 grants

totaling $124,574. Combined with the matching funds and efforts contributed by the grant

recipients, the program will help facilitate nearly $250,000 in preservation and interpretation

projects this year. Several of the grantees have had to already make changes to their plans due to

covid, and the Commission has welcomed alterations to grants in order to adapt to the situation

at hand.

The Advisory Commission pledged $800 to Keweenaw Economic Development Authority

(KEDA) and Main Street Calumet to purchase materials in ongoing efforts to stabilize the 425 5th

street building in Calumet. This is in addition to $1500 donated in the fall of 2019 to help secure

the building over the winter.

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

As mentioned during the last two(!) meetings, language supporting an increase in the Advisory

Commission’s annual authorization has been submitted to Senator Gary Peters office. We are

now awaiting its inclusion in a congressional bill, the delay of which is due first to the

coronavirus’ monopoly on government actions, and then Sen. Peter’s tightly contested Senate

race. This authorization increase would greatly expand the financial reach of the Commission,

and broaden the scope of our efforts to better preserve, interpret, and tell the story of

Keweenaw’s copper. I am currently following up on the status of this upcoming bill, and hope to

have an update for our next meeting.

The Advisory Commission would like to welcome our two newest commissioners. Dan Jamison

and Gerald Juntunen have been appointed as At-large commissioners as of November 3rd. These

appointments fill vacancies that were held by Amy Berglund and Larry Lankton, who attended

their last meeting back in August.

**Commission Committees and Projects**

**Announcements / Executive**

Commissioner Geisler took time to acknowledge the passing of former Commissioner Steve

Albee, who was involved in a variety of organizations and causes in the Keweenaw. Geilser

asked that meeting attendees take a moment to reflect and remember Mr. Albee.

Geisler informed that the Village of Calumet’s Historic District Commission has hired, Valentin

Pulido as new Historic District coordinator. Pulido is a graduate student at Michigan Tech in the

Industrial Heritage and Archeology program. Seven buildings in the district have recently been

purchased and renovations/stabilization efforts are ongoing. A façade grant for four buildings has

been completed in the last year. Currently, tile restoration funded through the Commission is

ongoing in the village lobby.

**Budget / Finance**

Moved by Cooper and seconded by Anderson to approve bills in the amount of $125581.85, plus

wages and tax payments of $16,333.48 for $141,915.33 total. Motion carried unanimously.

(5/0)

**Other reports from Commissioners**

Lindsay Hiltunen of the Michigan Tech Archives will be closing for the remainder of the

semester but will be available for remote research and archives-critical projects.

Karen Hintz informed that the Keweenaw County Historical Society decided to not open their

museums/sites or rental properties this summer due to covid and staffing shortages. The grounds

of several sites were left open for visitors, however. Time has been spent cleaning sites,

rehabbing facilities, and working on new interpretive displays. These changes have started the

KCHS to think about changing certain aspects of their activities including the creation of selfguided services

**Comments from Legislators or Legislative Staff**

Nothing to report.

**Comments from Keweenaw Heritage Site Representatives**

Lindsay Hiltunen of the Michigan Tech Archives will be closing for the remainder of the

semester but will be available for remote research and archives-critical projects. The archives can

be reached at 906-487-2505 or copper@mtu.edu.

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**Comments from the Public**

Amy Berglund is moving back to the Upper Peninsula from the Traverse City area to work with

InvestUP. Berglund wants to focus on the tourism industry and plans to remain a “spectator” of

the Park and Commission, and can act as a conduit for the Heritage Sites to tourism-related

information and assistance. Weatherization grant applications ($3 million in CARES Act funds)

are available and facilitated through the Small Business Association of Michigan. These grants

are for businesses with under 50 full-time employees looking to expand outdoor services.

**Motion to Adjourn**

Moved to adjourn by Jamison, and seconded by Anderson at 1:46 p.m. Motion carried

unanimously. (5/0).

**Next Meeting**

Tuesday, January 19, 2020