**Meeting October 17, 2018**

Present: Commissioners

Karin Cooper, Houghton County

Dave Geisler, Village of Calumet

Bob Langseth, Calumet Township

Larry Lankton, at-large

Scott MacInnes, State of Michigan

John Sullivan, Franklin and Quincy Townships

Absent: Amy Berglund, 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

Bob Holmstrom

Grant Holmstrom, Copper Range Historical Society

Larry Molloy, Keweenaw County Historical Society

Nancy Molloy, Keweenaw County Historical Society

Emily Riippa, Archivist, Michigan Tech Archives

**Call to Order**

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

to order at 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 17, 2018, at the Keweenaw NHP Headquarters in

Calumet, Michigan.

**Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Karin Cooper and seconded by Dave Geisler to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried unanimously. (6/0).

**Approval of Minutes of July 17, 2018**

Moved by John Sullivan and seconded by Larry Lankton 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 the Commission began work with Quinn Evans Architects (QEA) in

August to complete an amendment to the Calumet National Historic Landmark district. A

discussion session was held at the park, followed by tours of parts of Calumet and Lake Linden.

QEA is now working on an initial draft of the amendment that will be reviewed in February.

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

See noted that the fall Heritage Site meeting will be the week of October 22nd, and will report on

that meeting at the January Advisory Commission meeting. Featured agenda items include

presentations by several NPS staff and a discussion of the overall progress of the Heritage Site

program.

See reported that the GoFundMe campaign started by the Historical Society of Michigan to assist

two Heritage Sites damaged by the Father’s Day Flood has raised over $10,000. In August, See

and Superintendent Davis participated in check presentations to the Houghton County Historical

Society and the Copper Range Museum.

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

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

Historical Architect John Rosemurgy, park Landscape Architect Steve DeLong, and See met

with the Painesdale Mine and Shaft board at the Champion #4 shaft-rockhouse to learn about the

grant work undertaken and their future plans for the site. See reported that they have made

significant progress in dealing with potential safety issues and improving the visitor access, and

noted that many of their volunteers have direct family connections to the historical resources of

the site.

See reported that regular daily tours of the Quincy Smelter concluded on Labor Day, and the last

weekend tour took place October 13th, during Michigan Tech’s Family Event. There was a 29%

increase in visitors this season over last for the regular daily tours, while the special tours given

by the Quincy Smelter Association were down somewhat, a decrease attributable to weather

events coinciding with their dates. Overall, 824 visitors took paid tours this summer – a number

roughly equal to last year.

See publicly thanked George West from the Quincy Smelter Association for his work on the new

storm windows at the smelter office. While the commission paid for supplies and equipment

rentals, Mr. West volunteered his time to fabricate, paint, and install new storms.

See also thanked the Quincy Smelter Association for funding $16,000 in improvement projects at

the smelter this fall. This funding will be used for patching several roofs and securing numerous

spaces from pigeon intrusion.

Finally, See reported on the first music video to be filmed at the smelter. In early September, the

Finnish bluegrass band Steve N’ Seagulls filmed a video at the smelter the day after they

performed at the Rozsa. The production featured the five band members, representatives from

the Finnish logging company Ponsse, Nick Baumgartner (the Olympic snowboarder from Iron

River), a Model A Ford, and a Rolls Royce.

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

On August 15th, See had the opportunity to join a group that met with The Michigan State

Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) Executive Director Earl Poleski. Mr. Poleski

received a tour of the building at 512 Portland in Calumet that has been helped by MSHDA

funds, and the group discussed the history of the area and the need for additional State support in

rehabilitating historic structures.

The Advisory Commission’s nonprofit arm, Copper Country Preservation (CCP), is acting as the

fiscal agent for the Red Jacket Jamboree production at the Calumet Theatre. With the help of

CCP, the Jamboree successfully applied for an operational grant from the Michigan Council for

Arts and Cultural Affairs for $22,500.

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

See reported on his recent attendance at the Alliance of National Heritage Areas, held this year in

Springfield, Illinois, in the heart of the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area. The meeting

included tours of the heritage area; a business meeting; and professional development sessions

on marketing, advocacy, and donor management – all topics relevant to the operations of the

Advisor Commission.

Finally, See announced that in the Advisory Commission has again received the full $250,000 in

authorized federal funds. These funds will support basic operational needs, assist with lead-based

paint remediation at the Quincy Smelter, and help to complete the two National Historic

Landmarks (NHL) amendments currently underway. See also announced that the anonymous

donor has again pledged $100,000, and that the bulk of this funding will be used for the Heritage

Grant Program in spring 2019. With this donation, this anonymous donor has now given the

Advisory Commission $1,000,000 over the last nine years – a truly remarkable gift.

**Commission Committees and Projects**

**Announcements / Executive**

Moved by Scott MacInnes and seconded by John Sullivan to nominate the slate of Advisory

Commission officers for FY19 as follows: Chair, Dave Geisler; Vice Chair, Larry Lankton;

Treasurer, John Sullivan; Secretary, Karin Cooper. Motion carried unanimously. (6/0).

**Budget / Finance**

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

bills, from July 18, 2018 to October 17, 2018.

Moved by Sullivan and seconded by MacInnes to approve bills in the amount of $41,078.04, plus

wages and tax payments of $17,379.37 for $58,457.41 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 this has been a productive year for the park and the heritage sites.

The Quincy Mining Company office building in Hancock is benefiting from the restoration of its

heritage landscape, in addition to improvements to the site’s drainage. Visitation at the Calumet

Visitor Center is increased by nearly 10% over last year, and attendance at the park’s “Adventure

Hikes” have more than doubled.

Davis reported the good news that the park has, for a fourth consecutive year, received funding

from the National Park Foundation (NPF) for the Copper TRACES program – this continued

funding from the NPF is highly uncommon, and is a credit to everyone who participated in the

ongoing success of the popular program.

At Davis’ request, Chief of Museum Services Brian Hoduski presented a brief overview of the

park’s response to the damage to the Houghton County Historical Society (HCHS) Annex

building sustained in the Father’s Day flood. Hoduski first acknowledged on the supportive

community response, noting in particular the excellent work of Evangel Baptist Church in

Houghton in organizing and mobilizing volunteers to help move damaged materials; Hoduski

also expressed thanks to Louie’s Fresh Market in Lake Linden who provided temporary freezer

space for wetted, bound newspapers. The archives were moved to the HCHS Heritage Center

(housed in the former First Congregational Church of Lake Linden), and the objects and artifacts

were moved to the safety of either the cabin or the schoolhouse on the HCHS site. In addition to

the successful and greatly appreciated Historical Society of Michigan’s GoFundMe fundraiser,

Lisa Brisson, Executive Director of the Michigan Museum Association, coordinated the visit of a

series of teams of conservators, registrars, curators, and archivists from a variety of Michigan

institutions to visit HCHS over the course of 7 weeks and provide assistance to the recovery

efforts. Archivists from Michigan Tech have been very helpful as well, in addition to the work of

a several independent study students. University of Michigan has provided shelving, computers,

and archival supplies. Overall, Hoduski reports, there has been a truly wonderful response from

the local community as well as the Michigan museum community.

Superintendent Davis reported on anticipated projects for the upcoming year, including working

with the American Indian Science and Engineering Society student organization at MTU to help

tell the Indian history of the Keweenaw in a more compelling way.

While the annual appropriation of federal funds meets the base needs to keep the park running,

funding for projects is awarded in competition with other parks region-wide. Davis reported that

there are nearly $1.5 million in projects that have been funded for the upcoming year, including

HVAC updates to the Calumet Visitor Center, Historic Structures Reports of the Quincy Mine

Office and the Calumet & Hecla Public Library (presently the KNHP History Center), and

studies to determine the best and highest uses for these buildings. In addition, the park is looking

forward to substantial federal funding over the coming 5-7 years to for the rehabilitation of parkowned Warehouse #1 into the consolidated Lake Superior Collection Management Center

(LSCMC). 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.

Davis reported that Michigan Tech’s archaeology program conducted fieldwork over the summer

at Delaware Mine Heritage Site, and the park is looking forward to the report of their findings.

Over the winter, the park will be building interpretive panels for the prehistoric mining site, and

will draw on the information gleaned from this work.

Finally, Davis reported that the park is working with CLK Schools to write a case statement for a

heritage trades preservation program – creating opportunities for local students to learn and use

preservation skills locally, to remain in their community and contribute to the restoration of the

beautiful buildings in the area!

**Other reports from Commissioners**

Commissioner Geisler reported on several items of note. The recent open house at the Calumet

Depot was well-attended, and highlighted rehabilitation work funded in part with a grant from

the Advisory Commission. The vacant lot on 5th St. that was once occupied by the Sach’s

building has been cleaned up, and its new owner intends to deed the property to the Village. This

lot, along with the park next to the Calumet Theatre and a potential lease on a lot next to

Schute’s Saloon would together provide an L-shaped open green space for the community; Leah

Polzien (Executive Director of Main Street Calumet) and KNHP Landscape Architect Steve

DeLong are working on a plan for these properties. Geisler also noted that Polzien received a

$5,000 matching grant from Western Upper Peninsula Planning & Development Region office

(WUPPDR) to be used in a social media campaign to market the greater Calumet area as a great

four-season place to live; Polzien has also been working with KNHP in the development of a

recreation plan. Geisler also announced that the Village of Calumet now has a website

(http://www.villageofcalumet.com/)! Finally, Geisler noted that the Village now has a formal

process in place to address blight.

Commissioner MacInnes congratulated the Village on its progress on so many projects!

Commissioner Sullivan reported that the Copper Country Firefighters History Museum has a

new roof and is looking forward to completing the repointing of the museum, thanks to a

$15,000 Heritage grant and a $25,000 grant from the Americana grant. The Quincy Mine Hoist

Association has begun work on the $230,000 project to replace the tram’s railroad ties, funded in

part with a $15,000 Heritage grant; in addition, the 1918 hoist house will receive further

stabilization and restoration, again thanks to a $15,000 Heritage grant in conjunction with a

$25,000 Americana grant.

Commissioner Lankton noted that the Americana Foundation has been an extremely generous

donor to the area since the inception of the park, under the direction of Executive Director

Marlene Fluharty.

**Comments from Legislators or Legislative Staff**

Nothing to report.

**Comments from Keweenaw Heritage Site Representatives**

Grant Holmstrom with the Copper Range Historical Society thanked the Advisory Commission

and their volunteers for their assistance with the Father’s Day flood event.

Larry Molloy with the Keweenaw County Historical Society (KCHS) began by thanking the

Advisory Commission for a grant that is being used to improve visitor accessibility at the

lighthouse. Molloy also thanked the park and employees John Rosemurgy and Jo Holt for

providing technical assistance for a grant from the Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program.

Other noteworthy partnership activities over the summer include an Adventures in History

presentation by Marley Chynoweth from Isle Royale National Park on their current research,

archeological excavation work at the site of the Phoenix Hotel in Eagle River under Dr. Tim

Scarlett of MTU, and well-attended “found footage” presentation of home movies of the area by

park archivist Jeremiah Mason at the KCHS annual dinner held at the Keweenaw Mountain

Lodge.

Emily Riipa with the Michigan Tech Archives noted that while MTU archives has been able to

offer some assistance to the HCHS with flood remediation, the lion’s share of the work has been

provided by the community at large, the Michigan museum community, and the Park Service.

Riipa reported that MTU archives were recently featured on MTU archives featured on Travel

Channel's Mysteries at the Museum investigating the famed Paulding Light.

**Comments from the Public**

Bob Holmstrom, KNHP tour guide of downtown Calumet and the Industrial Core for the past

five seasons, noted that there are certain buildings that attendees are very interested in touring,

including the KNHP headquarters and the KNHP archives buildings, and suggested that this be

considered as an option for visitors in the future. Holmstrom also reported that there is a great

deal of visitor interest in the rehabilitation of the Calumet Depot, and that additional information

on plans for it would be most welcome.

**Motion to Adjourn**

Moved to adjourn by Geisler, and seconded by Cooper at 2:10 p.m. Motion carried

unanimously. (6/0).

**Next Meeting**

Wednesday, January 16, 2019.