**Meeting Conducted remotely via video conference**

**April 19, 2021**

Present: Commissioners

Glenn Anderson, State of Michigan

Karin Cooper, Houghton County

Dave Geisler, Village of Calumet

Gerald Juntunen, at-large

Dan Jamison, at-large

John Sullivan, Franklin and Quincy Townships

Absent: Keith Koppernolle, Calumet Township

Present: Executive Director

Sean Gohman (also recording Secretary)

Present: National Park Service

Wendy Davis, Superintendent

Present: Guests

Karen Hintz, Keweenaw County Historical Society

D. Keith Meyers, Chassell Heritage Organization

Katelyn Rader, UP Reg. Director, Office of U.S. Sen. Gary C. Peters (outgoing)

George Lablonde, UP Reg. Director, Office of U.S. Sen. Gary C. Peters

(incoming)

Val Pulido, coordinator Calumet Historic Commission

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 1:03 p.m., Monday, April 19, 2021.

**Approval of Minutes of January 19, 2021.**

Moved by John Sullivan and seconded by Glenn Anderson to approve of the minutes of January

19, 2021. 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 expects the Visitors Center to be open this summer, with decisions being made at

this time about dates, hours of operations, etc. Visitors will be welcome on the first floor

only at this time.

• The National Park Service recently released a NPS app for mobile use. Davis stated

KNHP is glad to work with Heritage Sites to upload accurate visitor information to the

app.

• An ethnographic overview and assessment will begin this summer with an aim to better

understand the prehistory of the area and enduring cultural practices and beliefs still held.

• National Historic Landmark updates are being created for both the Calumet and Quincy

NHLs. These updates will help inform future redrawing of the park’s boundaries to better

reflect changes over the last 30 years since the park’s establishment.

• Youth Crews will be working this summer in both the Quincy and Calumet units.

• The Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) program is currently interested in working with

KNHP and the Commission to identify safety and historic preservation needs that the

AML program could help fund.

• Davis concluded with an invitation for people to visit the KNHP Minecraft project page.

You can play a video game that helps you learn about architecture, mining, history, and

the Calumet community.

**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.**

• The National Park Service is still developing updated National Historic Landmark

nominations for Calumet and Hecla Mining Company Historic District and Quincy

Mining Company Historic District. The Quincy nomination is awaiting a public

information meeting, the announcement of which will be going out to property owners

via mail shortly. 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.**

• This May, the Commission will host a spring Heritage Sites meeting virtually over Zoom.

This meeting is an opportunity for the Sites to update each other on their plans for the

upcoming summer tourist season. Most sites are planning to be open for the season,

though with varying restrictions due to the ongoing covid-19 pandemic. Speakers are

currently being lined up, and once the date and agenda are confirmed, an announcement

will be made to the Heritage Sites, so stay tuned.

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

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

• Keweenaw NHP has developed and received funding from the Abandoned Mine Lands

program to conduct a stabilization project on the smelter’s dockside warehouse scheduled

for the summer of 2022. The project will be one more step on the way to making historic

structures on site safely accessible for visitors or even future commercial development.

• The Commission is working on developing new interpretive signs for the smelter

property to help orient visitors both inside and outside the facility. These include

orientation signs for visitors passing by as well as movable signs highlighting some of the

equipment housed inside.

• The Commission has continued its agreement with the Quincy Mine Hoist Association to

conduct tours of the Quincy Smelter. Tours will begin shortly, and for those interested,

please contact the Mine Hoist Association for more details.

• The Commission pledged $5,000 for the repair and updating of the entrance sign to the

Quincy Mine Hoist Association site. The south-facing side of the sign has degraded

significantly due to road salt and weathering, and this repair should minimize those

weathering impacts. The work will begin shortly.

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

• The Commission received 20 applications to its annual Heritage Grant Program. This is a

down number from previous years, much of it due to complications brought about by the

covid-19 pandemic. Several grantees from 2020 have opted to not apply this year as they

were unable to proceed with their already awarded grant projects during the last year. A

committee will be meeting in the coming weeks to determine which of the applicants will

be receiving grant monies come June.

• The Commission will be working with archivists from Northern Michigan and Michigan

Technological Universities to promote UPLINK (the Upper Peninsula Digital Network)

program that was recently funded through a grant to Northern Michigan University by the

National Historical Publications and Records Commission. This program is looking to

assist small organizations with archival collections to digitize those collections for better

access and storage.

• The Commission hopes to facilitate working between our Heritage Site partners and

UPLINK’s board and administrators as this project moves forward.

• This winter, Commissioner Jamison and I conducted a proof of concept recordation of the

Quincy Mine’s hoist house interior using a 3-D camera recently acquired by Jamison.

Though it was bitterly cold, the equipment did the job, and currently we are looking at

recording several other resources in the area, including the Quincy Smelter—which could

lead to the creation of datasets useful for virtual tours and preservation activities.

Develop the Commission into a sustainable operating organization.

• The Commission was recently informed by the Park Service’s Office of Policy that

nominations for the Commission were being accepted again after several years of

inaction on that front. Currently, nominations to represent the Village of Calumet will

soon be evaluated once the application and paperwork are submitted. There are two

nominations put forward. Calumet Township is also accepted nominations to replace

Keith Koppernolle, who has decided to step down from the position once a replacement

has been named. For those interested in learning more about the Commission or applying

for this volunteer position, please contact me or Tim Gasperich, Calumet Township

Supervisor.

**Commission Committees and Projects**

**Announcements / Executive**

Commissioner Geisler announced that there will be a memorial service at 2:00pm on Sunday

May 20th at the Chassell Pavilion to remember former Commissioner Steve Albee.

**Budget / Finance**

Moved by Sullivan and seconded by Juntunen to approve bills in the amount of $2,559.59, plus

wages and tax payments of $14,531.52 for $17,091.11 total. Motion carried unanimously.

(6/0)

**Other reports from Commissioners**

John Sullivan motioned to formally ask Senators Peters and Stabenow and Congressman

Bergman to 1. Accept ownership of the Quincy Smelter site, and 2. To transfer Isle Royale

Headquarters to the Quincy Smelter site. Glenn Anderson seconded. Motion carried

unanimously. (6/0)

Gerald Juntunen asked for clarification on the status of Sen. Peters’ pledge to introduce a bill that

would increase the Advisory Commission’s annual authorization to 1,000,000 per year. Katelyn

Rader stated that the bill wasn’t able to find enough support but that there are opportunities to

keep submitting this language. Rader also invited the Commission and KNHP to meet with Sen.

Peters’ new legal council in D.C. on this matter.

Dan Jamison wished Rader good luck in her new career path. Jamison echoed a desire to use 3D

camera imaging to document the Quincy Smelter and other heritage site resources to expand

visitor experiences into the virtual realm.

Comments from Legislators or Legislative Staff

Katelyn Rader, outgoing Upper Peninsula Regional Director for Senator Gary Peters’ Office, let

the Commission know that she’ll be moving on to California in July, and that George Lablonde

will be replacing her. Lablonde introduced himself as well.

Comments from Keweenaw Heritage Site Representatives

D. Keith Meyers of the Chassell Heritage Organization announced that an anonymous funder is

looking to help with the creation of a Chassell heritage trail included several interpretive signs

along the route. Hoping to have the trail in place and usable sometime later in the summer.

Karen Hintz informed that the Keweenaw County Historical Society will open their sites and

museums starting June 20th

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**Comments from the Public**

Val Pulido, coordinator for the Calumet Historic District Commission, introduced himself to the

Commission and stated he is looking forward to working together in the future.

**Motion to Adjourn**

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

unanimously. (6/0).

**Next Meeting**

Monday, July 19, 2021. (amended to July 29th)