



Meeting
January 15, 2013

Present: Commissioners

Stephen Albee, At-Large
Sue Dana, Village of Calumet
Kim Hoagland, At-Large
Ed Jenich, Houghton County Board of Commissioners
Allan Johnson, State of Michigan
Bob Langseth, Calumet Township

Absent: Commissioners

John Sullivan, Franklin and Quincy Townships

Present: Executive Director

Scott See

Present: Keweenaw National Park Service

Tom Baker, Management Assistant

Present: Recording Secretary

Sidney Butler

Present: Guests

Judy Albee
Glenda Bierman, Quincy Mine Hoist Association
Amy Berglund, Senator Levin's Office
Dave Giessler, Village of Calumet
Kurt Hauglie, Daily Mining Gazette
Brian Hoduski, Chief of Museum Services, NPS
Liz Sheridan, Volunteer
Ed Sheridan

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was called at 9:02 a.m., Tuesday, January 15, 2013, at the KNHP Headquarters in Calumet, Michigan.

Approval of Agenda

Approval of agenda as presented was moved by Bob Langseth and seconded by Allan Johnson. Motion carried unanimously. (6/0)

Approval of Minutes of October 16, 2012

Approval of the minutes as presented was moved by Stephen Albee and seconded by Sue Dana. Motion carried unanimously. (6/0)

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Scott See reported on the goals of the Advisory Commission.

See began his report with explaining how he supported the goals of advising the National Park Service (NPS) during the quarter. See continued his participation in the NPS goal meetings, as well as discussions about future park projects and improving the technical assistance process.

Developing the Keweenaw Heritage Sites Program into a Consortium of Fully Sustainable Sites

See reported on the Heritage Site Program Committee saying that the work of the Heritage Site Program Committee is moving a little slower than he had hoped. The groups had asked the Heritage Sites to return their signed renewal agreements to KNHP Management Assistant Tom Baker or Director See no later than January 15th. Unfortunately, only twelve of nineteen agreements had been signed and returned to date. Two other sites are working on getting the appropriate signatures, and neither See nor Baker had heard from five sites. See will be contacting the remaining sites later in the week. In addition, it had been hoped that new site solicitation would begin at this meeting, but the Heritage Site Program Committee was unable to meet and is not ready yet. See expects that both of these issues will be taken care of by the next Commission meeting.

At the end of November, See helped facilitate a meeting with the QMHA and a number of NPS staff members. As the only Heritage Site partner within the Quincy Unit of the Park, See said the Quincy Mine Hoist Association (QMHA) is really the face of the Park in that Unit and the Unit wanted to discuss several preservation and interpretation challenges the QMHA is experiencing. See said he thinks the session was successful and the plan is to reinstate the Unit meetings from several years ago in order to improve regular communication and continue the dialog on how to work together in the unit. Commissioner Allan Johnson asked See for information regarding the frequency of Unit meetings. See answered that they had been quarterly, but Director See and NPS Superintendent Pflaum discussed biannual meetings. A meeting has not been held for two years.

Developing a Cohesive, Accessible, and Engaging National Park Experience Along the Entire Length of the Keweenaw

Director See said that he focused the majority of his efforts during the last quarter on the Quincy Smelter. Following the Commission meeting in October, the Commission

entered into an option agreement to purchase the smelter from Franklin Township. The agreement specifies a purchase price of \$335,000 plus \$11,437 in loan forgiveness in exchange for the smelter property and the Quincy Mining Company-related artifacts owned by the township. The Commission has until September 30, 2015 to execute the option to purchase. The agreement has been assigned by all of the appropriate parties and recorded with the County. See met with several community members to talk about funding sources for the purchase price. See explained that the reason for the option agreement is that the Commission does not currently have the money. The Commission is working on a variety of things to get that money and See has been having meetings to discuss that issue. Director See met with MDOT and Steve DeLong to provide input on MDOT's 2014 road realignment project at the Smelter. There will be changes made and the Commission wants those changes to be sensitive to the historic resources and improve access to the site. Commissioner Hoagland asked what is driving the road changes. See clarified that the issue is safety because there have been accidents at the turn going around the slag pile. Commissioner Dana asked if a list of the Franklin Township artifacts was obtained by the Commission. See answered that he did have a discussion with Michigan Tech Archivist Erik Nordberg and NPS Chief of Museum Services Brian Hoduski and their goal is to get together to do an inventory of the artifacts or documents owned by Franklin Township which are either in the office or at the Smelter site. See also met with Judy Counts and Horst Schmidt of the Quincy Smelter Association to talk about how the Commission and the NPS could help them. The Association will continue to provide the tours that they have held over the years. Despite the agreement with Franklin Township, the Commission and NPS want to ensure nothing changes with the Quincy Smelter Association and will look for ways to help the Association. Along with NPS Superintendent Pflaum, See gave an update on the Smelter to a joint Houghton/Hancock city council meeting. See also worked with local NPS staff to ensure that the needed smelter planning projects are submitted within their internal systems. See said that while the Advisory Commission does not own the smelter yet, he wants to make sure that the local staff and the regional office are starting to think about what the Commission is going to do once the property is acquired.

Director See shared that he met with Andy Sikkema and Aaron Johnson from MDOT, as well as Steve DeLong and Superintendent Pflaum to discuss the possibility of additional park signage throughout the Keweenaw. Although the way-finding signs erected by the Park several years ago were a huge help to the Heritage Sites and Park visitors, the Commission and the NPS want to explore adding additional park entrance signs or unit signs to let the traveling public know that they're in a national park. See said that the conversation with MDOT is really just beginning and he hopes to provide more information in a future meeting.

Promoting a Historic Preservation Ethic and Emphasizing Heritage Awareness

Due to the turmoil in Washington DC and internal discussions about the priorities of the Advisory Commission, the announcement of the 2013 Heritage Grant Program has been delayed. Fortunately, See said he thinks the Commission is now ready to proceed with the program and he will be working with Tom Baker to make an announcement probably before the end of the month. Commissioner Hoagland clarified that the Commission has committed \$100,000 to the program. Tom Baker clarified that the NPS is hoping to commit \$45,000. Of course, the Commission still needs to include the disclaimer that developments in Washington may still impact the program, but the Commission can not wait any longer to announce the basic guidelines.

The Commission's nonprofit arm, Copper Country Preservation, Inc.(CCP), has agreed to act as a fiduciary agent for a grant application to the Americana Foundation. The City of Hancock wants to conduct a repair project on their 1935 Stairway Park at the base of the lift bridge. NPS Architect John Rosemurgy has been assisting the city with the grant application, and CCP will provide grant administration assistance if the grant is awarded.

See attended a planning session for the UP History Conference put on by the Historical Society of Michigan. The conference this year will be in Houghton on June 28th through 30th and the committee has asked that the NPS staff participate in a meaningful way.

Developing the Commission into a Sustainable Operating Organization

Director See finalized the Commission's 2013 Goals and Objectives, and copies of the document will be available on the Commission's website as part of the minutes for this meeting.

The Commission received our third, and final, installment from the anonymous benefactor. Over the course of the last three years, the benefactor has provided the Commission with \$300,000 to support our programs and projects, and really given a boost to our ability to help the NPS achieve the park purposes. The Commission is truly indebted to the overwhelming generosity of the benefactor. The last installment also means that the Commission needs to reinvigorate the Development Committee so that it can continue to move forward for the Commission's efforts.

Finally, as always, See made sure that the Commission's quarterly tax forms were filed and all bills were paid.

Discussion following Executive Director's Report

Allan Johnson asked who is structuring the UP History Conference in Houghton. See answered that it is the Historical Society of Michigan and there is a local planning committee. Johnson added that he attended a number of those conferences over the last 20 years and he thinks it is great that it is coming to Houghton. The dates are June 28th to 30th.

Commission Committees and Projects

Announcements / Executive

Approval of a contract for Tara Laase McKinney in the amount of \$1,440 to prepare lessons plans for Copper Country History in conjunction with the Park was moved by Sue Dana and supported by Ed Jenich. Motion carried unanimously. (6/0)

Approval of Financial Report

Approval of the budget finance report, including bills for \$39,826.11 of which \$13,852 was for survey work, was moved by Sue Dana and seconded by Allan Johnson. Motion carried unanimously. (6/0)

Development

No report.

Partnerships

No report.

Preservation – Stewardship

Commissioner Hoagland reported that the four-county survey of cultural resources is rushing toward completion. In early December, Jane Busch gave a public meeting presenting findings from the field. The next public meeting will take place on April 15th and will concern the preservation plan. Busch's contract is up in June and so the project is in its final stages.

Secondly, Hoagland mentioned the Mine Waste: Poor Rock, Stamp-sand and Slag Study will be the topic of the Fourth Thursday in History Program which will take place on January 24th, 7 pm at the NPS Headquarters. Hoagland added that since a conclusion from the project is that a lot of public education is necessary, the Fourth Thursday Program is a good first step.

Superintendent's Report

NPS Management Assistant Tom Baker stood in for Superintendent Mike Pflaum.

Baker said that there was not much to report about the budget as there is not much movement in Washington so the NPS is still under a continuing resolution.

Baker said he has been working with Franklin Township in an effort to get the property de-listed as a Superfund Site. The declaration of restrictive covenant document which is the main DEQ and EPA document necessary to start the delisting process was recently finished. The good news is the document is being recorded at the Houghton County Court Office this week. As it was a huge effort, Baker applauded Franklin Township for sticking to it and making sure it was done. In addition, Franklin Township is looking are looking at two other sites being de-listed.

The NPS is transitioning to a new financial system which is referred to as the Financial and Business Management System (FBMS). Baker said it is a complicated transition and affects partners that do business with the Park. Baker is trying to help the partners navigate through the change as best as possible.

Baker said he is continuing to work with the Finn Fest board. Finn Fest will be held June 19th through 23rd and 5,000 to 10,000 visitors are anticipated. Beginning the preceding weekend, there will be self-guided tours. Several of the Heritage Sites will be actively participating in the event. Commissioner Johnson asked if the Park is coordinating lodging arrangements. Baker answered that lodging is not part of the Park's role. Finn Fest is a multi-organizational group which includes Finlandia, Michigan Tech, Houghton and Hancock. The Finn Fest board is coordinating lodging. Commissioner Jenich asked if there is anyone representing labor and the 1913 strike as part of Finn Fest. Baker answered that the Finn Fest committee is separate from the 1913 committee. Jenich rephrased his question, asking if there is labor on the 1913 committee. Baker said he doesn't know. Commissioner Hoagland asked who is on the 1913 committee. Director See answered that Eric Nordberg or Gary Kaunonen are good contacts.

The Calumet Visitor Center hours are currently Thursday through Saturday from 9am to 5pm. Baker said that that schedule will be maintained until late May. Commissioner Jenich asked about the attendance. Chief of Museum Services Brian Hoduski answered that attendance has been hit and miss. Commissioner Hoagland asked if anyone had used the school bus grant. See said there Baraga has been the only

school group that has asked for reimbursement. Baker said there have been a lot of school groups that visited last spring and in the fall.

Baker reported that the Park Facebook page has reached 4,700 people. Baker added that at 6:10 this morning, TV6 News Anchor Vicki Crystal was holding the NPS passport book and said that she found out about the passport through the KNHP Facebook page. Hoduski said the plan is to excerpt something from a period newspaper for everyday of the strike on the Facebook page. Commissioner Hoagland asked if there would be an explanation of the newspaper's point of view. Hoduski answered he understood what the question but was unsure of how that could be done. Commissioner Dana asked Kurt Hauglie of the Daily Mining Gazette if there is something the Gazette could do leading up to the commemoration. Hauglie said he remembered something being mentioned but he would try to nail that down. Hoagland said the strike was so long at 8 ½ months and to post something every day is very cool. She asked if it would be on the website in addition to Facebook. Hoduski answered that Hoagland should ask Valerie Newman as she manages both the website and the Facebook page, but he thinks it is much easier to do on Facebook. Hauglie asked what day the strike started. Hoagland answered July 23rd.

Management Assistant Baker continued that the Park's Interpretation and Museum Services Staff have been meeting with the Exhibit Support Group which originated with the October Museum Exhibits Workshop. The Support Group participants are all designing exhibits for this summer. Baker said he has been hearing positive feedback.

Baker reported that the demand for research and reference is very brisk. Archivist Jeremiah Mason responded to 55 reference requests so far this FY. Most are focused on family history, the miner's strike, Italian Hall, and those types of issues.

History Associates, Incorporated (HAI) has completed the finding aid for the Quincy Mining Company records. The record will be listed on the KNHP website in the winter. Baker said it will make the records accessible to an international audience. HAI has also made considerable progress with the C&H records.

Baker distributed copies of the Museum Insider which was written and designed by Archivist Mason. The purpose of the newsletter is to maintain communication with past researchers and donors by updating them on the Park's activities and accomplishments. It will be emailed by pdf to NPS personnel and might be put on the KNHP website.

The 11th Annual High School Local History Smackdown will take place at the Calumet Theatre on April 25th. Baker thanked Commissioner Jenich for helping raise funds. Hoduski said there is already one team registered, from Baraga.

Landscape Architect Steve DeLong has reviewed the Calumet Cultural Landscape Report and Environmental Assessment. There was a lot of editing required at the 9% review. The document is now out for public review throughout the end of January. It is available on the Park website.

Architect John Rosemurgy has been working with the Calumet Historic District Commission (HDC) regarding Calumet's threatened buildings. He has been helping the HDC with revisions to the Historic District Ordinance, HDC Procedures and Guidelines, and Certified Local Government application requirements. The next step is the SHPO-approved ordinance and guidelines are expected in late January and the Calumet Village Council is expected to adopt the revised ordinance in February or March. Commissioner Dana clarified that the HDC received responses back from SHPO and had to go over those recommendations. Then Rosemurgy contacted the attorney again

to make sure what was done was correct. Commissioner Langseth asked if the revisions were a result of the Commission's grant. Dana answered affirmatively.

Management Assistance Baker announced the Service-wide Comprehensive Call is due next week. He said the Park is at the conclusion of many months of effort. The call is how the Park competes for soft money. There are pots of money that are appropriate from Congress and all 398 NPS parks compete for funds. There is a vegetation removal project for the Youth Conservation Corps with a launch for Fiscal Year 2014. Before that, a project will likely be awarded this April for interpretation and education for six to nine multimedia and podcasts. As part of that project, KNHP will be able to bring in an additional seasonal GS7 Ranger. Baker said the KNHP has received a lot of funds for projects over the years considering the size of the Park. Director See said he thinks that for the total life of the Park, more than half of the funding has been project funding. Baker said it is a credit to the KNHP staff who are very good at writing the project proposals. Baker said that another project is the stabilization on the C&H Russell Snowplow. While close, full funding for the restoration was not awarded so the Park is now shifting gears to a stabilization project. Two other projects are to help partners at Quincy Mine Hoist Association. One is to fabricate an electrically powered tour vehicle rather than take diesel tractor which would address sustainability and health issues. The other is to stabilize the exterior concrete walls of the 1918 Quincy Hoist House.

Discussion following Superintendent's Report

Director See asked for clarification that with the exception of the podcasts all of the mentioned projects are requests. Baker affirmed.

Commissioner Dana asked how requests are made each year and whether applications need to be made every year. Baker said that every year projects need to be updated. New criteria is made every year and so each project must be revised to answer all the criteria. Dana asked for clarification on the Fire Hall Museum because she sees it listed at \$58,000 but she thought it was originally submitted for \$200,000. Baker said he would look into that for Dana.

Other Reports from Commissioners

Allan Johnson said he received an email from the NPS Washington Office to submit detailed financial disclosures by February 15th. Johnson asked if Amy Berglund from Senator Levin's Office had to fill out something like that. She replied that she did not. Baker clarified that any NPS staff dealing with contracts must do that. Commissioner Albee said he didn't get anything. Commissioner Langseth said he couldn't get onto the site. Commissioner Jenich said he has completed the process and it worked fine. Secondly, Johnson announced that the Michigan Basin Geological Society plans to place a historical marker at the Eagle River Museum to honor Douglas Houghton who drowned about four miles from the museum. According to Johnson, the most significant information Douglas Houghton found went into an 1840 report that led to mining in the area. The Michigan Basin Geological Society will pay for plaque which will be about \$5,000. The Michigan DNR and Keweenaw County Historical Society are involved. Commissioner Hoagland said there is already a sign. Johnson said there is one done by the county but the new one will be a State of Michigan plaque. The Society will not accept reference information; they will only accept original documentation. Johnson has been in the archives and has copies so he is in a good position to provide information. Johnson asked Hoduski if there is information on Douglas Houghton in the Park's holdings. Hoduski said no.

Commissioner Albee had no comments or reports.

Commissioner Dana introduced Dave Geissler, the new president of Village of Calumet. Dana thanked Tom Baker with help with grants. The Village is finalizing the \$20,000 grant from the Americana Foundation and \$5,000 Heritage Grant for the windows and other work at the Fire Hall Museum. Dana said that without Baker, the Village would really have a hard time sorting through the Park Service stuff. The grant for the Paine Webber building is almost complete. Dana said there are some things that will get finished in the spring. There was an anonymous donor in the Village of Calumet who had the Calumet Theatre ballroom rewired. In addition, candles in windows are part of the donation.

Commissioner Hoagland announced she would be giving a talk on Seeberville on January 15th at the Calumet Library at 6:30. It is part of the Michigan Tech Library circulating exhibit on the strike.

Commissioner Langseth again expressed thanks for \$300,000 gift that the Commission has received. Langseth said he met one time with a person from Michigan Tech; and the Keweenaw Heritage Center at St. Anne's is hopeful that in 2015-2016 their exhibit would be a virtual reality of Calumet in 1910. Langseth requested information about potential sources of money for such an exhibit because it would be a significant amount. Hoagland commented that Avis West had done oversized maps with info from Sandborn maps and would be a good source for research. Hoduski mentioned that there is a website that compared historic photos to contemporary photos.

Commissioner Jenich elaborated on the Smackdown for April 25th. He said that one participant is already acquired and hopes to get others that have participated in past in addition to new ones. This year, Jenich intends to make personal contacts with schools to solicit participation, especially one that is in close proximity. Hoduski said a disappointment is that the Bridge School team will not be participating because the school has been closed. Commissioner Johnson asked about eligibility requirements and if the teams must be from high school. Hoduski said a team must be high school age, but a team is not required to be sponsored by a high school. He said there has been a home school team as well a team put together by Will Shapton.

Comments from Legislators or Legislative Staff

Amy Berglund from Senator Carl Levin's Office said she appreciated being able to report back to Senator Levin with some optimistic news from the Commission. Regarding a legislative update from Washington, Berglund said there was not much to report, although Senator Levin was optimistic about avoiding sequestration by January 2nd. While that was done, it was just pushed off. Berglund said the Senator will be returning from overseas tomorrow and hopefully those discussions will get going before the deadlines.

Berglund said she wished she could have better news. She is looking forward to the summer and all the good things to report to the Senator.

Commissioner Johnson confirmed that Senator Levin is chairman of the National Armed Services Committee and said that is a tremendous responsibility. Berglund said he has been in Afghanistan and Pakistan for almost two weeks. He has been over there about nine or ten times over the last few years. Berglund said he had a busy end of Congress last year being able to pass the National Defense Authorization Act. Johnson said it is

really something to have someone with such tremendous international significance also be interested in the KNHP.

Commissioner Langseth added that from the KNHP's 20th Anniversary Celebration, there was a wonderful picture of Senator Levin rolling a hoop to a little boy.

Comments from Keweenaw Heritage Site Representatives

Glenda Bierman reported for the QMHA. She said that the last year was so successful that they were able to put the excess into a designated fund for repair work. A main focus right now is funding. Commissioner Hoagland asked if the visitation last summer was particularly good and thus why they ended up in the black. Bierman answered that it was due to more visitors as well as a small increase in ticket price. Bierman reported that QMHA is moving forward with restoring the No.6 Locomotive. Chuck Pomazal did a lot of work in the fall. Bierman said they are closed until April. Commissioner Jenich said that the illumination of the Shaft House has attracted a lot of comments. He had visitors from out-of-state comment on the beauty, how it could be seen from a distance, and how it was picturesque. Bierman said requests for illumination have slowed, but hopes that after seeing it off for a while, requests will return. Commissioner Langseth asked for QMHA to update them on the visitor numbers in the coming season because the Keweenaw Heritage Center is looking to expand its season length and hours. Commissioner Hoagland recommended taking a look at the monthly reports from the Heritage Sites which Kathleen Harter collects.

Comments from Public

None.

Motion to Adjourn

At 10:09 a.m., a motion to adjourn was made by Jenich and seconded by Langseth. The motion carried. (6/0)

Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 16, 2012