



Meeting
October 21, 2014

Present: Commissioners

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

Present: Executive Director

Scott See

Present: Keweenaw National Park Service

Kathleen Harter, Chief of Interpretation and Education and Acting Superintendent
Brian Hoduski, Chief of Museum Services

Present: Recording Secretary

John Arnold

Present: Guests

Judy Albee
Glenda Bierman, Quincy Mine Hoist Association
Anita Campbell
Paul Campbell
Dave Geisler, Village of Calumet
Kurt Hauglie, Daily Mining Gazette
Virginia Jamison, Keweenaw County Historical Society
Rick Kasprzak
Jean Pemberton, Copper Range Historical Society
Rob Tarvis, Village of Calumet

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was called at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, October 21, 2014, at the Keweenaw NHP Headquarters in Calumet, Michigan.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Bob Langseth and seconded by Ed Jenich to approve agenda as presented. **Motion carried unanimously. (7/0).**

Approval of Minutes of July 15, 2014

Moved by Allan Johnson and seconded by John Sullivan to approve the minutes as presented. **Motion carried unanimously. (7/0).**

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 reported that Commissioner Albee represented the Commission at the board meeting of the Lake Superior Collection Management Center (LSCMC) on October 16, an effort aimed at improving the care of the collections from Keweenaw National Historical Park (NHP), Isle Royale National Park, and Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, where he provided input to the session and represented the partnership nature of Keweenaw NHP. See invited Albee to elaborate during his report.

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

See reported that the Advisory Commission had assisted through travel grants attendance at the annual conference of the American Association of State and Local History. This year the conference was in St. Paul, Minnesota. Brian Hoduski drove representatives from six Heritage Sites, as well as Steve and Judy Albee, in the NPS van to St. Paul to attend the conference. See noted that he had received reports from a number of the attendees and that all involved found the sessions useful not only to their individual Heritage Sites work but to engendering conversations with other board members.

See also noted that the Park's Interpretive Division received project funding over three years to complete a Comprehensive Interpretive Plan for the Heritage Sites. At the end of September, two initial planning sessions were held with the Sites, in addition to a separate meeting with members of the Quincy Smelter Association. Fourteen of the twenty-one sites participated in the sessions, and the Fall Heritage Site meeting was cancelled in favor of having the representatives participate on this project. Additional follow-up meetings will be held in the spring.

Develop partnerships that provide visitors with a cohesive, accessible, and engaging national park experience along the entire length of the Keweenaw.

See reported to applause that as of August 29th, the Commission is the owner of the Quincy Smelting Works, and continued by extending gratitude to some of the many individuals for their contributions to this achievement: Ekdahl and the Franklin Township board for stewarding the property for the last fifteen years; Senator Levin for his support throughout the process; Superintendents Pflaum and Corless, and the NPS staff at Keweenaw for their excellent technical assistance; the NPS staff at the Midwest regional office for their assistance; the staff at Region V of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); the Quincy Smelter Association; the Advisory Commission's attorney Jim Tercha; the Commission itself, in particular John Sullivan for his fundraising efforts; the Americana Foundation; our anonymous donor for a very generous gift; and the dozens of individuals and companies that donated to the cause over the years.

Additional work has been undertaken since the transfer of ownership, and See reported a number of accomplishments in the past quarter, including the establishment of a tour agreement with the Quincy Smelter Association; the negotiation of arrangements for Franklin Township to remain in the office building until their new office is ready; work with Weston Solutions, the EPA, the NPS, and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to plan for additional environmental cleanup work; and, finally, leading a large number of tours of the Smelter property. See noted, however, that the primary task is the ongoing work to determine the roadmap of activities required to transfer the property to the NPS, and expressed that he anticipated more information to report at the January meeting of the Advisory Commission.

In addition, See reported that he had attended or facilitated conversations regarding the future preservation and interpretation of the Quincy Dredge in Osceola Township and the Cliff Mine property in Keweenaw County, noting that unlike the Quincy Smelter, both of these properties are outside the park boundaries and that, further, are each uniquely threatened. See will continue to spend time attempting to determine the best methods to ensure that these important resources remain part of the landscape.

Finally, on September 3rd, Commissioner Langseth and See attended a brainstorming session concerning the industrial properties owned by Calumet Township. John Rosemurgy created a short report from this meeting that identified the former uses of the buildings, their features, their deficiencies, possible future uses, and possible funding sources to aid in their conservation. See noted that this seminal meeting on the topic will necessarily require follow-up and additional work.

Promote a historic preservation ethic and emphasize heritage awareness.

See reported that before Former Management Assistant Tom Baker departed for his new assignment, he and See distributed eighteen of the twenty-one grants awarded this year, while the three remaining awardees have asked the Commission to hold their money as they formalize their plans. See also offered the reminder that awardees have until the end of 2015 to complete their projects.

On October 15th, See delivered another iteration of his Quincy Smelter/Cliff Mine presentation, this time at the annual meeting of the Michigan Municipal League in Marquette. The panel he participated on presented to a standing-room-only crowd of about 70 people, which See noted was largely composed of municipal managers from downstate. This was another good opportunity

to demonstrate efforts at creating a balance historic preservation and environmental concerns on the Keweenaw.

Develop the Commission into a sustainable operating organization.

See related that, for the second year in a row, the Commission has been given the full \$250,000 in federal funding that it is authorized to receive, and noted that this money will fund our operational expenses as well as a number of partnership efforts. See expressed his thanks in particular to Superintendent Pflaum, Tom Baker, and those at the regional NPS office who have made this possible. Director See further expressed his gratitude to Senator Levin for his continued help in determining a sustainable funding model for the Commission's activities.

Finally, See reported that the anonymous donor has again agreed to provide the Commission with another \$100,000 for our programs. This brings the total contributions from this donor to \$600,000, which, See noted, is a truly impressive show of support for the work of the Commission and the mission of Keweenaw National Historical Park.

Discussion following Executive Director's Report

Commissioner Langseth called for a round of applause to recognize See's efforts at the successful transfer of the Quincy Smelter property to the Commission.

Commission Committees and Projects

Announcements / Executive

Commissioner Hoagland announced several changes to the composition of the Commission, beginning with the news that Commissioner Johnson will not be seeking renomination at the end of his term and that Hoagland herself will be resigning her seat at the conclusion of the meeting, noting that both she and Johnson will continue to serve until their seats are filled, in accordance with legislation. She reported that she has very much enjoyed her decade of service to the Commission.

Additionally, Hoagland stated that a slate of Commission officers had been developed, and that the one-year terms would begin following this meeting.

Moved by Kim Hoagland and seconded by Allan Johnson to nominate Bob Langseth for Chair, John Sullivan for Vice Chair, Stephen Albee for Secretary, and Sue Dana to continue her role as Treasurer for the Commission. **Motion carried unanimously. (7/0).**

Changing officers requires updating signatories on the bank account.

Moved by Ed Jenich and seconded by Allan Johnson to approve Bob Langseth, John Sullivan, Stephen Albee, and Sue Dana as signatories. **Motion carried unanimously. (7/0).**

Commissioner Hoagland introduced the work plan for the coming year, stating that much of the anticipated work will be continuation of projects already underway. The work with the Quincy Smelter will continue in its magnitude, and there will be some additional environmental cleanup undertaken in preparation for the eventual transfer to the National Park Service. Conversations with parties responsible for the Quincy Dredge and Cliff Mine regarding management and protection will continue to be pursued. The grant program for the upcoming year will be increased to \$125,000, and there is the possibility that the NPS will contribute additional funds to

that amount. The Commission will continue in its support of its partner Heritage Sites in many ways, including funding a floating Site Ranger to visit events across the Keweenaw and assisting with the very successful exhibit workshop, as well as underwriting memberships in professional organizations and travel expenses to professional meetings for Heritage Site board members, in addition to funding the school bus program to encourage student Site visitation, and offering general assistance to the Heritage Sites with marketing and website development.

Moved by Sue Dana and seconded by Allan Johnson to approve the work plan for the coming year. **Motion carried unanimously. (7/0).**

Budget / Finance

Commissioner Dana reported that the work plan outlined by Commissioner Hoagland detailed many of the projects included as part of the \$384,000 in expenses against an income of \$355,080 in the 2015 budget, and noted that the discrepancy in these two values is met by funds carried over from the previous year.

Moved by Sue Dana and seconded by Ed Jenich to adopt the 2015 budget. **Motion carried unanimously. (7/0).**

Dana further reported that four contracts for the Quincy Smelter project required approval: Weston Solutions for Due Care Plan consulting with a not-to-exceed (NTE) value of \$4800.00; Weston Solutions for funding research and pursuit of support of the smelter, NTE \$20,000.00; Weston Solutions for implementation of remedial measures at the smelter, NTE \$6861.00, and U.P. Environmental Services, NTE \$47,150.

Moved by Sue Dana and seconded by John Sullivan to approve these four contracts. **Motion carried unanimously. (7/0).**

Finally, Dana noted that bills since the prior meeting required approval: bills in the amount of \$31,024.35 plus wages and tax payments of \$17,027.28 for \$48,051.63 total.

Moved by Sue Dana and seconded by Allan Johnson to approve these bills. **Motion carried unanimously. (7/0).**

Development

Scott See reported that there is approximately \$20,000 in outstanding pledges for the Quincy Smelter. As the Smelter has already been purchased, See will continue working with these donors to secure these pledges.

Partnerships

Nothing to report.

Preservation-Stewardship

Nothing to report.

Superintendent's Report

Acting Superintendent Kathleen Harter prefaced her report by extending thanks to Commissioner Hoagland for many years of excellent service.

Harter reported that the position for Superintendent for the Keweenaw National Historical Park has been advertised, and there is a pool of applicants with the Midwest Regional Office. In addition, Senator Levin had visited the Smelter the week prior and had expressed his continued support advocacy for the site and impressed the importance of the Smelter passing from the Advisory Commission to the National Park Service. Harter also announced some staffing changes within the park. Former Management Assistant Tom Baker has moved to Wyoming, where he has accepted a position as Fort Laramie National Historic Site; his duties have been assumed by other park staff, and there are no immediate plans to fill his vacated position at KNHP. Finally, Historian Jo Holt is working remotely from Minneapolis for the next nine months.

Harter began her review of the divisional reports by presenting her own work in Interpretation. She related that two well-attended initial meetings were held in September for the Keweenaw Heritage Sites Interpretive Plan, and provided a good basis from which to start developing the plan. The plan itself is a three-year project. Subsequent meetings will be held in the spring to gather additional ideas from the Heritage Sites and begin identifying next steps toward a cohesive visitor experience. The planning effort is being led by Wendy Davis from the Harpers Ferry Center in conjunction with Kathleen Harter, Valerie Newman, and Scott See.

The Labor and Immigration History Institute hosted by the park in July was a success. There were 18 different educator submissions of lesson plans, lesson units, and projects. They covered a range of topics and grade levels. One of the projects will be posted on the park webpage by the end of November. Further uploads to the park webpage will have to wait until there is staffing and funds available to format and fact check the final project.

Harter further reported on media and social media work being undertaken by the park. Development of the Russell Snowplow wayside is underway with all materials ordered. It will be in place at the beginning of the next summer season. In addition, there are new waysides up on Quincy Hill, across from the shaft-rockhouse on park-owned property, accompanying a short interpretive trail that leads visitors to an overlook and to the Dry House.

The Calumet Visitor Center (CVC) days of operation have changed according to season and staffing. Starting in November, the CVC will be open on Friday and Saturdays.

Regarding social media, Harter reported that seasonal staff worked very hard this summer conducting a substantial amount of research to create thematic weekly posts to the park's Facebook page that resulted in a steady increase in the number of followers. The seasonal staff were also tasked with creating content for future posts beyond their termination dates, allowing the park's Facebook page to remain live and active even in their absence. Any Facebook questions and inquiries that occur during the winter will be answered by permanent staff and any remaining seasonal staff working part time.

The Facebook statistics are impressive, and highlight the visitor reach that is occurring. Average Weekly Reaches (people that have seen any content) is around 18,000 visitors, while the Total Reaches of July through September is approximately 311,000 people.

Four Heritage Sites were assisted in the creation of their own Facebook pages through engagement in a workshop hosted this fall by Advisory Commission-funded Events Ranger Tara Laase-McKinney. The Sites expressed interest in additional training, and further sessions may be held this coming spring.

Harter next moved on to a review of the Lake Superior Collection Management Center (LSCMC) report prepared by Chief of Museum Services Brian Hoduski.

Keweenaw History Center archivist Jeremiah Mason responded to 182 total reference requests in fiscal year (FY) 2014, 23 to date in FY 2015. Research in FY 2015 has been focused on the park's social media campaigns, scholarly research, property research, and on family history research. Hoduski noted that these numbers represent a reference visit three out of every four open days, and that Mason is providing a very important service to the community in making the collections accessible to not only scholars but people doing personal family and property research.

In his role as curator for Isle Royale and Pictured Rocks, per the LSCMC Charter, Chief Hoduski traveled to both parks to conduct their annual museum property inventories and to assess their museum facilities for their museum checklists. Hoduski also prepared and submitted the annual reporting submissions for Pictured Rocks and provided them advice on responding to storm damage to an outdoor-exhibited boat and to the building housing their stored collections. Hoduski also prepared a Statement of Work and Vendor List for Contracting's use in soliciting bids for a new Isle Royale exhibit case to be used to exhibit the helm of the shipwreck Algoma. Hoduski added that this is of benefit to the KNHP and partners as the solution to inadequate storage facilities to develop a repository locally for the consolidation and management of artifacts from all three parks, an undertaking that may aid in securing funding to rehabilitate the Warehouse for use as museum storage.

Chief Hoduski and Commissioner Albee attended, in September, with representatives from six Keweenaw Heritage Sites (Ontonagon County Historical Society, Keweenaw County Historical Society, Chassell Heritage Organization, Carnegie Museum, Quincy Mine Hoist Association, and Michigan Technological University Archives), the American Association of State and Local History (AASLH) annual meeting in St. Paul, MN. The group attended a wide variety of sessions covering board development, collection planning, visitor experience, volunteers, scrapbooks, diversity and inclusion, leadership, fundraising, special events, and digitization, among others.

Finally, Harter reviewed the Landscape Preservation Report prepared by Landscape Architect Steve DeLong. DeLong has been involved in a number of efforts, including meeting with Scott See and Osceola Township to discuss preservation of the Quincy Dredge on Torch Lake, working with EPA Emergency Response Division to inform site cleanup remedy at Ahmeek Millsite, working with Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District, and Natural Resources Conservation Service to assist with development of interpretive signs for the Cliff Mine / Eagle River restoration project. DeLong has additionally met with Calumet Township to hear their preservation needs/concerns, organized a "Paint the Town" event with NPS interpretative staff that included approximately 18 volunteers on two sites and resulted in stabilization improvements to both properties. Additionally, DeLong reported that he has worked with Quincy Mine Hoist Association (QMHA) to develop a vegetation removal strategy to reduce woody vegetation identified in the Quincy Unit cultural landscape report, and coordinated a meeting for NPS staff and QMHA to explore issues related to facilities, interpretation and collections to assist the Association with the development of long term and short term priorities. Finally, DeLong has completed both the Italian Hall Site improvements and a CVC project that includes new facility identification signs and NPS arrowheads installed on the Calumet Visitor Center.

Harter concluded her review of the divisional reports by presenting the work of John Rosemurgy, Historical Architect.

Highlights of Rosemurgy's work include the Wisconsin Public Energy Settlement Project undertaken with the Quincy Mine Hoist Association, for which he prepared the final project proposal for submittal for review by the Midwest Regional Office. This \$35,000 project will involve a grid-tied photo voltaic array near the mine entrance. The array will generate power to illuminate underground mine tour lighting, and project installation is planned for the summer of 2015. Rosemurgy also worked on numerous other projects, including a site visit to the Painesdale Methodist Church (1907) and the preparations of general preservation recommendations to assist the church with a grant request to Leuthold Foundation. Rosemurgy has also been working with Michigan Technological University Professor Richelle Winkler, hosting a class discussion concerning a Geothermal heating study and organizing the Calumet Visitor Center energy data for a possible future feasibility case study. His work also included the C&H Russell Snowplow Stabilization and a project intended to reduce mechanical noise in third floor Assembly Room of the Visitor Center.

Other reports from Commissioners

Commissioner Allan Johnson reiterated Commissioner Hoagland's earlier announcement that he would not be seeking reappointment from the state of Michigan, and noted that his time spent working with the Commission and the Heritage Sites has been enjoyable and worthwhile. Johnson also expressed his gratitude to Hoagland for her hard work and many successes over the years.

Commissioner Stephen Albee took this opportunity to state his satisfaction with the material progress being made with the LSCMS regarding moving the consolidation and protection of the dispersed collections.

Commissioner Bob Langseth recognized Commissioner Hoagland's contributions to the Commission and its work, and reported that he would be attending the upcoming Houghton County Historical Society annual meeting as a representative of the Commission. Langseth then delivered an eloquent summary of his views on the importance of taxation and its role in funding community projects, including preservation work locally.

Commissioner Sue Dana echoed Langseth's views on taxes and introduced Rob Tarvis as her replacement as the Village of Calumet Administrator. Dana reported that, in clearing out her office space, she has recently uncovered personal collection of records on the establishment of the Park, including newspaper articles, pictures, parade banners, posters, and various promotional materials and the CLK Foresight "scroll of signatures" in support of the creation of KNHP, much of which she will be donating to the Park.

Commissioner Ed Jenich announced that he would not be seeking re-election next term, and extended his thanks to Commissioners Johnson and Hoagland for their dedicated work over the years.

Commissioner John Sullivan reported on the work being conducted on the historic Calumet Fire Station. Sullivan noted that the second floor drywall work and electrical improvements have been completed, and thanked the Americana Foundation for a \$15,000 grant used in conjunction with \$5,000 from the museum to fund this work. Sullivan also reported that work will be

undertaken next year in repointing portions of the south wall using an additional \$20,000 grant from the Americana Foundation, \$9,000 from the Advisory Commission Keweenaw Heritage Grant program, and \$6,000 from the museum itself. This work is scheduled to begin in the spring with a completion date of June 30, 2015.

Comments from Legislators or Legislative Staff

Rick Kasprzak, candidate for Houghton County Commissioner, expressed his appreciation for Commissioner Langseth's defense of taxes in support of existing public services in Houghton County.

Comments from Keweenaw Heritage Site Representatives

Virginia Jamison of the Keweenaw County Historical Society began with the unfortunate news that the time capsule was not found in the Douglass Houghton Monument in Eagle River as was expected. Additionally, plans are in place for this Monument to be tuck pointed and receive new signage in the spring.

Jamison further reported that the foundation work at the Phoenix Church has been completed, and new trees have been planted at the site. The piano at the Eagle River museum is going to be removed for a 6-month restoration effort, thanks in part to a Heritage Grant. Two long-term residential tenants at Central have moved out, and work is underway to rehabilitate these properties for use as vacation rentals.

Glenda Bierman, of the Quincy Mine Hoist Association first thanked the Commission for the opportunity to attend the annual conference of the American Association of State and Local History in St. Paul. Bierman reported good visitor numbers this season, similar to the year prior, and noted a record number of attendees over the Michigan Tech Family Weekend, with 406 visitors on a single day. Some funds have been set aside for continued work on the hoist house, and work with weatherproofing and restoration is underway with additional assistance from a Heritage Grant. Bierman also announced the publication of a new book, *Rock Down, Coal Up: The Story of the Quincy and Torch Lake Railroad*, written and illustrated by Chuck Pomazal. Finally, the Quincy Mine Hoist Association now has an official Facebook page.

Jean Pemberton of Copper Range Historical Society reported that over the 4th of July weekend the Society had rented the Red Jacket Trolley and conducted two full tours from South Range to Painesdale, and due to their success, future tours of this nature are under consideration. She further noted that the Society was honored to have had Commissioner Hoagland speak at the annual member get-together in Painesdale Baptist Church in July, and that while the museum is closed for the season, it is always available for group tours or visitors by appointment.

Comments from the Public

Dave Geisler, Calumet Village President, reported that the roof over the stage and proscenium at the Calumet Theatre has been replaced, and thanked the Park for their work in coordinating the successful "Paint the Town" event. Geisler further expressed his gratitude to Sue Dana for her time as Village Comptroller and her continued work representing the Village on the Commission.

Motion to Adjourn

Moved to adjourn by Albee and seconded by Johnson at 10:19 a.m. **Motion carried unanimously. (7/0).**

Next Meeting

Tuesday, January 13th, 2015.