**Meeting April 30, 2019**

Present: Commissioners

Karin Cooper, Houghton County

Dave Geisler, Village of Calumet

Bob Langseth, Calumet Township

Larry Lankton, at-large

John Sullivan, Franklin and Quincy Townships

Absent: Amy Berglund, at-large

Scott MacInnes, State of Michigan

Present: Executive Director

Scott See

Present: National Park Service

Wendy Davis, Superintendent

Present: Recording Secretary

John Arnold

Present: Guests

Judy Albee

Steve Albee

Rick Allen, Keweenaw Report

Kristine Bradof, Isle Royale and Keweenaw Parks Association

Lindsay Hiltunen, Archivist, Michigan Tech Archives

Leah Polzein, Executive Director, Main Street Calumet

**Call to Order**

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

to order at 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 30, 2019, at the Keweenaw NHP Headquarters in Calumet,

Michigan.

**Approval of Agenda**

Moved by John Sullivan and seconded by Karin Cooper to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion carried unanimously. (5/0).

Calumet MSC & DDA Presentation: Leah Polzein

Leah Polzein, Executive Director of Main Street Calumet (MSC) and Chair of the Village of

Calumet Downtown Development Authority (DDA), presented a 20-minute PowerPoint

slideshow demonstrating the work of MSC and the DDA in the promotion, development, and

preservation of Calumet.

Highlights of this excellent presentation included an summary of the multiple events supported

by Calumet (including PastyFest, Trunk or Treat, and CopperDog 150) and an overview of the

many avenues of engagement undertaken by MSC and the DDA. A partial list includes assisting

with the review of the Village of Calumet’s Master Plan, development of the Village’s website,

social media outreach, facilitating greenspace improvements, and assisting downtown business

owners with Community Development Block Grant façade improvement applications. More

information can be found at http://www.mainstreetcalumet.com/ and

http://www.villageofcalumet.com/dda-home.html.

Polzein closed by expressing her gratitude for the funding and support of the Advisory

Commission; Commissioner Geisler acknowledged and thanked Polzein for her work.

**Approval of Minutes of February 12, 2019**

Moved by Karin Cooper and seconded by Bob Langseth to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion carried unanimously. (5/0).

**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 has received the revised draft of the Quincy

National Historic Landmark (NHL) Amendment, prepared by Quinn Evans Architects (QEA).

The project team is currently reviewing the draft, and it is expected to be forwarded to

Washington for review by the NPS Advisory Board before the next Advisory Commission

meeting in July.

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

During the quarter, See met with the Quincy Mine Hoist Association’s Publications and

Interpretive Committees; See has been assisting the Publications Committee with the preparation

of a field guide to the industrial artifacts at the mine site.

The Spring Heritage Site Meeting will be held on May 30th this year—a bit later than usual, due

to conflicting May events.

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

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

See reported that he has approved a contract for a lead-based paint removal project at the Quincy

Smelter. The project will focus on lead abatement in the smelter office building as well as some

of the more-traveled tour routes. A June completion date is anticipated.

Superintendent Davis, Park Landscape Architect Steve DeLong, and See met with environmental

contractor Mannik Smith to discuss alternatives for capping the stamp sand at the smelter. A

final report is expected soon, to be followed by discussions on performing some proof-ofconcept tests at the site this summer.

The Midwest Regional Office of the NPS has initiated a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment

of the smelter property to help inform discussions about the possible transfer of the smelter

property to the NPS. The contractor is expected to visit the site next week, and a completed

report later this summer.

See attended the spring meeting of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas in Detroit in midApril. See reported that much of the meeting focused on visiting the partner sites of the

MotorCities National Heritage Area, a structure very similar to the KNHP Heritage Site

program.

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

The 2019 Heritage Grant Program deadline was April 5th; 27 applications requesting $228,000 in

grant funds were received. The grant review committee will be meeting April 30 and June 1 as

necessary to award the $138,000 in grant funds available this year.

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

See announced that he has continued work on the commissioner appointment structure. Word is

still awaited from the Secretary of Interior’s office about a replacement for Commissioner

Langseth and a reappointment for Commissioner Sullivan. These documents were originally

submitted March 1, 2018. In the past quarter, See submitted Commissioner Cooper’s

reappointment paperwork, worked with the governor’s office on a replacement for

Commissioner MacInnes, and advertised openings to replace Commissioners Lankton and

Berglund. These last two nominations are open to the public.

Finally, See renewed the Commission’s State of Michigan license-to-solicit for our nonprofit

organization. This enables Copper Country Preservation to continue to solicit charitable

donations in the state.

**Commission Committees and Projects**

**Announcements / Executive**

None.

**Budget / Finance**

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

bills, from February 13, 2018 to April 30, 2019.

Moved by Sullivan and seconded by MacInnes to approve bills in the amount of $37,283.63, plus

wages and tax payments of $ 15,906.79 for $ 53,190.42 total. 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 began by reporting that there are numerous projects upcoming and underway, including

the conclusion of the restoration of the heritage landscape at the Quincy Mining Company office

building in Hancock and the rehabilitation of Warehouse #1 into the multi-park curatorial facility

(the consolidated Lake Superior Collection Management Center, or 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.

This year will see a reprise of the very successful “Copper TRACES” program that brings

hundreds of fourth grade students to the park to learn from the Heritage Sites, area communities,

and the park itself about the history of the Copper Country; this event will take place May 13-16th.

Keweenaw National Historical Park will host a naturalization ceremony at the park's Calumet

Visitor Center on May 23. The ceremony will welcome more than 20 residents of the Upper

Peninsula as United States citizens.

Michigan Tech’s summer archeological field school will begin May 13th near the dry house in

the Quincy Unit.

Finally, The Quincy Mine Hoist Association, Keweenaw National Historical Park, and

Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission are jointly hosting a National

Endowment for the Humanities traveling exhibit. The exhibit, Jacob A. Riis: How the Other Half

Lives, will be on display at the Calumet Visitor Center from September 3 – October 20. This is

the exhibit’s only showing in Michigan.

**Other reports from Commissioners**

Commissioner Cooper congratulated the park for their impressive work in maintaining their

public events schedule following the government shutdown, noting in particular the success of

the recent 17th Annual High School Local History Smackdown held on April 25th.

Commissioner Langseth noted that this summer marks the 25th anniversary of the development

of Keweenaw Heritage Center at St. Anne’s, and that there will be a commemorative celebration

on June 19th from 7-9pm.

Commissioner Geisler reported on several noteworthy items, including the upcoming $1.2

million Elm Street infrastructure project, ongoing work in updating the public improvement plan,

and the upcoming updates to the Village zoning ordinance.

**Comments from Legislators or Legislative Staff**

Nothing to report.

**Comments from Keweenaw Heritage Site Representatives**

Lindsay Hiltunen commented that MTU archivist Emily Riippa will be working with KNHP

archivist Jeremiah Mason to develop the MTU Archives Copper Traces activity station into a

mobile outreach activity station that will travel to local schools to help students to learn about

working with primary sources.

Hiltunen also reported that she recently served on the program committee for this year’s annual

Midwest Archives Conference in Detroit, and took the opportunity to promote local programs

and Heritage Sites while networking at the conference.

Finally, Hiltunen noted that she will be representing the MTU Archives at the upcoming Society

of International Hockey Research Conference in Windsor, Ontario, and will be presenting “From

the Rink to the Record: Conducting Successful Oral Histories.”

**Comments from the Public**

Nothing to report.

**Motion to Adjourn**

Moved to adjourn by Lankton, and seconded by Sullivan at 1:52 p.m. Motion carried

unanimously. (5/0).

**Next Meeting**

Wednesday, July 16, 2019.