**Meeting April 17, 2018**

Present: Commissioners

Amy Berglund, at-large

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: None

Present: Executive Director

Scott See

Present: National Park Service

Wendy Davis, Superintendent

Present: Recording Secretary

John Arnold

Present: Guests

Judy Albee

Steve Albee

Anita Campbell, Keweenaw County Historical Society

Brian Hoduski, Chief of Museum Services, Keweenaw National Historical Park

Paul Lehto, Calumet Township

Jean Pemberton, Copper Range Historical Society

Ginny Schubert, Keweenaw County Historical Society

**Call to Order**

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

to order at 1:02 p.m., Tuesday, April 17, 2018, at the Keweenaw NHP Headquarters in Calumet,

Michigan.

**Approval of Minutes of January 16, 2018**

Moved by John Sullivan and seconded by Amy Berglund 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 reminded the assembled that the draft document of the Quincy Mining Company National

Historic Landmark (NHL) Amendment has been sent to Washington for review by the Advisory

Board review, but it is not presently known when this review will take place. While this

Amendment waits in queue, a day-long planning session to prepare for the Calumet NHL

Amendment was held in early February, resulting in a finalized Scope of Work document that is

now being reviewed by the selected contractor, Quinn Evans Architects detailed proposal from

them in the next week or so.

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

**See reported some statistics gathered from the Heritage Sites, measuring their collective efforts.**

In 2017, the 21 Heritage Sites received 327,067 visitors; contributed 28,250 hours of volunteer

time; employed 18 full-time employees and 85 part-time employees; and had a combined annual

budget $2,625,000. See reported that this visitation total is roughly the same as last year, while

the budget number is roughly 2% higher.

In addition, See noted that Heritage Site agreements expire this year, and in the interest of time,

the existing agreements will be extended for two years as conversations with the Sites get

underway to discuss suggested changes to the program. Finally, the Spring Heritage Site Meeting

is scheduled for May 8th

.

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

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

See met with representatives from the Quincy Smelter Association, the Quincy Mine Hoist

Association, and the National Park Service (NPS) to discuss the upcoming tourist season at the

Quincy Smelter. Tours have been tentatively planned for six days a week (Monday through

Saturday), from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Also discussed were strategies to improve

marketing and advertising activities for the tours.

In addition, the smelter office building roof replacement has been scheduled, to be followed by

lead-based paint remediation. See has additionally contracted with Mannik Smith Group to have

asbestos-containing materials removed from the site this summer.

Finally, both the Commission and the NPS provided input on the Village of Calumet’s proposed

Master Plan.

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

See reported that the 2018 Keweenaw Heritage Grant Program is underway, with 25 grant

applications received requesting $219,000 in grant funds. As there is only $150,000 in funding

available, there are some difficult decisions ahead. Grant awards will be announced during the

week of May 1st

.

Several park representatives also participated in discussions about the Buffalo Reef stamp sand

remediation near Gay. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality convened a group

interested in the historical resources in and around the proposed project area in order to gather

input on how to best preserve the historic resources and landscape, a welcome and appreciated

addition to the larger discussion.

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

See noted that he and Superintendent Davis met with Katelyn Rader, Senator Peters’ new Upper

Peninsula representative, and invited her and the Senator to visit the park and the Quincy Smelter

soon.

The Commission’s grant agreement with the National Park Service has been renewed through

2023. The agreement is the primary vehicle through which the Commission receives federal

funding, and is annually modified to specify funding levels for particular fiscal years.

Finally, See noted that the first quarter is also the time of the year for several annual

administrative tasks, and reported that he has renewed the Michigan fundraising license for the

Commission’s nonprofit arm, Copper Country Preservation, and has filed the federal 990 tax form.

**Commission Committees and Projects**

**Announcements / Executive**

None.

**Budget / Finance**

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

bills, from January 17, 2018 to April 17, 2018.

Moved by Sullivan and seconded by Cooper to approve bills in the amount of $3,572.20, plus

wages and tax payments of $18,521.62 for $22,093.82 total. Motion carried unanimously.

(7/0).

**Superintendent’s Report**

Superintendent Wendy Davis provided an overview of recent news and summaries of key

accomplishments of the various park divisions.

Davis reported that the budget for the upcoming year will be stronger than anticipated, as cuts

will be less severe than initially feared. Further, the current administration’s focus on

infrastructure projects has provided an opportunity to compete nationally for those project funds.

This year work will continue at the Quincy Mine Office, including addressing site drainage and

the reconstruction of the historic fence, and building repairs and HVAC upgrades will be taking

place at both the Headquarters building and the Visitor Center. In addition, the park has received

funding to prepare a Historic Structure Report (HSR) for both the Quincy Mine Office building

and the Calumet and Hecla Mining Company Public Library (now the Keweenaw History

Center), an important first step in preservation and restoration work.

Chief of Museum Services Brian Hoduski is continuing to develop the plan and prepare for the

rehabilitation of the Calumet & Hecla Warehouse No.1 into a three-park curatorial storage

facility. Grant-funded NPS intern Alan McTaggart will continue through the year in his role as

an AmeriCorps Community Volunteer Ambassador, and is working directly with the Heritage

Sites to develop volunteer programming and is helping to build a robust recruitment strategy for

more volunteers going forward. In other public outreach news, the 16th annual High School

Local History Smackdown is scheduled for 7 p.m. on April 26th at the Calumet Theatre. Also,

Davis noted that the park has received for the third consecutive year funding from the National

Park Foundation for the very successful “Copper TRACES” program that brings hundreds of

children 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 15-17th

.

Finally, Davis reported that park Historical Architect John Rosemurgy recently spent four weeks

by invitation in Puerto Rico conducting post-hurricane condition assessments of curatorial

facilities, museums, and libraries, and will be returning for an additional two weeks to complete

this work.

**Other reports from Commissioners**

Commissioner Geisler reported that work continues apace on the master plan, and a public

hearing is scheduled for early May. Following this hearing, the planning commission votes to

adopt the plan, after which it moves to the Village Council for a vote to adopt. Geisler also

reported that construction on the Calumet Theatre elevator is underway, with an estimated

completion date in June.

Commissioner Sullivan reported that the Quincy Mine Hoist Association (QMHA) has a major

project underway, that of the replacement of 850 wooden ties on the cog rail tram. This project

was made possible by a $15,000 Heritage Grant and a $200,000 loan from USDA Rural

Development, in addition to $15,000 contributed by QMHA. Work commenced last week and

will continue until the tram begins its regular runs in May; work will resume in the fall, and

should be completed by the end of October.

Commissioner Cooper reported that she attended a meeting with Superintendent Davis and park

staff who are working towards formulating a preservation trades program for high school

students. Davis remarked that the initial phase of this project, made possible by the award of a

$42,000 competitive park fund, will be in 2019 with the posting of a park volunteer to the

schools, with a student internship activity taking place the following summer. Although planning

of this project is still in its infancy, this program not only provides an opportunity for local youth

to remain in the area if they wish, but also an opportunity for them to help take care of the

important history of this place.

Commissioner Langesth reported that the granite marker for the Italian Hall memorial has been

engraved with the names of those lost in the terrible incident, and is ready for installation in the

spring. In addition, acoustic panels are being installed in the basement of the Keweenaw Heritage

Center at St. Anne’s to improve the acoustics of the room.

**Comments from Legislators or Legislative Staff**

Nothing to report.

**Comments from Keweenaw Heritage Site Representatives**

Jean Pemberton with the Copper Range Historical Society (CRHS) reported that they will host

an open house on Saturday, June 2nd, and will open to the public on June 5th. The annual Fourth

of July bus tour will visit the Mountain View Cemetery in South Range this year. The annual

dinner will be held July 18th at the VFW in South Range, and will feature guest speaker Graham

Jaehnig. Pemberton also described a new exhibit underway centered around the ceremonial spike

that completed the Copper Range Railroad on December 27, 1899 and is on permanent loan from

the Paine family. Finally, CRHS will again this year be participating in Copper Traces.

Ginny Schubert of the Keweenaw County Historical Society reported that they are looking

forward to another good season: Larry Molloy has been working on the Adventures in History

program for this year, and all of the sites will be opening June 10th for the season.

**Comments from the Public**

Calumet Township Supervisor Paul Lehto reported that the Township is anticipating a very busy

summer of projects, including pouring a new concrete floor in the rest of the Drill Shop,

completing the roof of Warehouse #2, and erecting a new picnic pavilion at Swedetown Ponds.

Furthermore, a transportation grant has been written with the help of John Rosemurgy that would

help fund a roof replacement on the Calumet Depot, and another grand has been submitted to the

DNR for $100,000 to build an indoor pavilion with electricity and water at Calumet Dam.

**Motion to Adjourn**

Moved to adjourn by Berglund, and seconded by Cooper at 1:50 p.m. Motion carried

unanimously. (7/0).

**Next Meeting**

Tuesday, July 17, 2018.