

**Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission
Minutes of Meeting, October 24, 2000**

Present: Commissioners –

Kathryn Eckert, At-Large, National Park Service
Reverend Robert Langseth, Houghton County Board of Commissioners
Larry Lankton, At-Large, National Park Service
Paul Lehto, Calumet Township

National Park Service –

Frank Fiala, KNHP Superintendent
Abby Sue Fisher, Chief of Research, Archival & Museum Services
Brian Hoduski, KNHP Curator
Rodney Larsen, Administrative Officer
John Rosemurgy, KNHP Architect

Absent: Commissioners -

Sue Cone, Village of Calumet
Tom Nemacheck, State of Michigan
Clyde Raasio, Quincy/Franklin Township

National Park Service -

Fritz Rushlow, KNHP Exhibit Restoration Specialist

Recording Secretary: Lisa Dwyer

Call to Order

A meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was held Tuesday, October 24, 2000, at 9:00 A.M. in Calumet, Michigan at park headquarters. Because three of the commissioners were absent, a quorum could not be met. Chair Paul Lehto said that the meeting would proceed for informational purposes only and that the commissioners in attendance would not be able to vote on any business.

Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

Review of Minutes

Since there was not a quorum at today's meeting, the approval of the minutes of the meeting held on August 22, 2000, will be voted on at the next Advisory Commission meeting. Kathryn Eckert made a motion that will be voted on at the next meeting to correct on page 3, third paragraph, the name, Susan Clark. It should be Sandra Clark. Also, on page 3, second paragraph, Eckert made a motion to strike out "...and the park to put together a plan listing projects that need funding from outside funding sources. He asked Kathryn Eckert to elaborate on Clark's proposal." In place of this section she would like it to state "... to convene a meeting in Lansing to advance the work of the park."

Superintendent's Report

Frank Fiala gave an update on KNHP staff positions. He introduced John Rosemurgy, the new KNHP architect. He also introduced Dr. Abby Sue Fisher, who is the new Chief of Research, Archival, and Museum Services. Brian Hoduski's position as park ranger at KHNP has been changed. He is now a curator. A new employee to KNHP is Tom Baker. He will be working as an archivist with Abby Sue Fisher. His wife, Kathy Baker, also a new KNHP employee will be working in administration. The Bakers should be arriving during December to begin their new positions with the park. A facility manager's position will be filled within the next six months as well. Geri Larsen is also back on the park staff working in maintenance. Fiala said he would be recruiting for a landscape architect/planner and hopes to have that position filled by the end of December 2000. Fritz Rushlow, KNHP exhibit restoration specialist, was not at today's meeting because he was married the previous weekend. His new wife, Sheila Jordan, is the Contracting Officer for Isle Royale National Park. Fiala added that Jordan would assist with the contracting needs of KNHP.

Fiala spoke about the park budget and property acquisitions. The base budget increase did occur with the allocation of \$750,000 for park operations and \$100,000 for the Advisory Commission and its operations. Collectively it was an \$850,000 base budget increase, which brings the park budget to 1.34 million dollars. The park did not receive the funding of four million dollars requested in the budget for the construction costs associated with the rehabilitation of the Union Building and the Administrative Building. However, the park did get \$400,000 toward the design plans for these two projects. In addition, there is a carryover from last year of \$235,000 to use toward the design plans. Fiala added that the park has a signed purchase agreement with the owners of the Administrative Building. The park also has a signed purchase agreement for the 26 acres on Quincy Hill. An appraisal is being done on the Library Building and Warehouse #1 in Calumet and the Pay Office on Quincy Hill. An appraisal has been completed on Osceola #13, which is a preservation easement. A survey, which ascertains whether there is any hazardous waste, will be done on all of these sites and all of this should be completed by the end of November.

Fiala reported on several other meetings and discussions he has been involved in recently. He met with U.S. Senator Carl Levin and discussed the relocation plans for the Seaman Mineral Museum. The park will be submitting a grant application to the Save America's Treasures' program in connection with the relocation of the museum. John Rosemurgy is the lead person on the site assessment plan for the Quincy Smelter. Retired architect John Haro is also involved in

those plans. A meeting will be convened with the principals of the smelter to discuss the possible uses of the smelter and its renovation. A curling club is looking into the possibility of using the Drill Shop in Calumet for its activities. Fiala attended a Discovery 2000 NPS superintendent's conference in St Louis. He also went to Lansing to participate in the state's meeting on state preservation planning. He went to Washington DC to discuss the business plan for KNHP. He will be leaving for Los Angeles to attend the National Trust for Historic Preservation's annual conference. Fiala noted that the National Trust has designated the Seaman Mineral Museum relocation as a Save America's Treasures project under their program. Fiala said he would be attending the Midwest Leadership conference in Omaha.

Michigan's Secretary of State, Candice Miller, will be here on November 13, 2000, for the initial screening of the video *Keweenaw Copper: A Michigan Story* produced by the Michigan Department of State and Michigan State University, which commemorates the copper industry in the Keweenaw.

A letter has been received from the Secretary of Interior officially appointing Sue Cone as a member of the Advisory Commission representing the Village of Calumet.

Reports and Comments from the Commissioners

Reverend Robert Langseth asked Abby Sue Fisher if she is planning to record any oral histories. She stated that she intends on starting on the project right away. She would like to do one or two a week. She has a list of names already. She is open to suggestions and welcomes additional names of people who would be willing to give oral histories.

Reverend Langseth reported that St. Anne's has received a grant from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA). He explained the nature of the grant. Sixth grade students from Calumet and Hancock schools and the advanced art classes from the Calumet and Hancock High Schools will participate. They will be asked to articulate by photo and image some important aspect of their family tree within the time frame of the turn of the nineteenth century to the year 2000 and also what they see as important in their lives in 2001. As a result of this grant project a birds eye view of what youth see as important will be captured. By participating in this program it is hoped that these students will become aware of the importance of the culture of the area and the importance that their artwork will play in emphasizing this. The students will be shown the artwork done by local school children from the 1920s and 1930s as well. This project is scheduled to begin in February 2001 and will involve about 200 students. The artwork and photos will be on display next summer at St Anne's. Reverend Langseth credited Larry Lankton with having the idea for the project.

Reverend Langseth said he read in the Detroit News recently that Wayne and Oakland counties in Lower Michigan are developing a millage for "cultural values" in order to provide an art tax. Art and cultural groups in the two counties would benefit from the tax. As a representative of Houghton County he would like to explore this idea for Houghton and Keweenaw counties. If anyone knows or has information about this cultural tax, please let him know.

Kathryn Eckert spoke of the Americana Foundation trustees' visit to the Keweenaw. During their visit the trustees did award two small grants; one will be go through the Community Keweenaw Fund and its purpose is to do some land use planning in the Keweenaw. Eckert mentioned that the foundation trustees were surprised to hear that there is no zoning in the Keweenaw. Another small grant was awarded to the Houghton County Historical Museum for work to done on the Mary Chase Stratton Perry house in Hancock. Eckert attended a meeting for Michigan Council of Foundations held at the Grand Traverse Resort in the Traverse City area. There were 1200 people in attendance. That region was showcased. She added that it is a good way to get potential funders to see a region. Eckert said she reviewed all of the minutes of the Advisory Commission to see if Central Mine had ever been made a cooperating site. She did not find anything in the minutes indicating that it had been designated as a cooperating site. Eckert said she is very pleased that the next KNHP staff person to be hired is to be a landscape architect/planner. She noted that it is essential for a park where there is little property acquisition to have someone who can get out on the street and work with the property owners. Eckert stated that Paul Lehto and Frank Fiala contacted Sandra Clark in response to her offer to convene a meeting in Lansing in order to advance the work of the park. The week of January 22, 2001, or the week of February 5, 2001, was mentioned as possible meeting dates for the Lansing meeting. Paul Letho added that an extensive "wish list" has been formulated already and a list of possible funding sources is being compiled as well.

Larry Lankton reported on the ongoing exterior renovation of St. Anne's Church. Lankton said that it will take about \$100,000 to complete these renovations. St. Anne's has recently received a \$34,000 grant to work on the exterior from MCACA. There are also plans to obtain a grant for \$75,000 to help with the cost of the exterior renovations. Upon completion of the exterior renovation, plans for the rehab of the interior will proceed after which planning for exhibits will begin.

Lankton asked about the site assessments going on at the Quincy Smelter. He wondered if an historic site report has been produced yet. He pointed out that architects have taken the lead role in the smelter assessment. He feels that if work is progressing on the site assessment of the smelter it is also extremely important that an historian of technology or an industrial archaeologist should be working with the architects. The artifacts inside the buildings are as important as the building itself, he added. There should be an historic element involved with the assessment plan. Fiala agreed saying it is definitely an important aspect and needs to be included in any plans for the smelter. Fiala said that a planning session is being developed and it will include the Advisory Commission

Paul Lehto reported that Clyde Raasio is working on arrangements for a meeting with the city of Hancock in order to discuss the impacts the city's future plans might have on the Quincy Hill area. A tentative meeting date of October 30, or 31, 2000 has been scheduled. Lehto encouraged Frank Fiala and the Advisory Commission members to attend. Letho reported that a 185-foot crane was used to inspect and take photos and videos of the former C & H smokestack located near the CLK schools. Some repair work was done around the top of the smokestack during the inspection. Plans will be developed to do further repairs on the smokestack using the photos and videos.

Lehto reported on other activities in Calumet Township. The township is working to restore the historic street lighting on the extension of Fifth Street and to proceed on Red Jacket Road to U.S. 41. Calumet Township's Historic District ordinance is in place and official. The township will be retrieving a piece of machinery that was used in sinking shafts and display it at Coppertown. Lehto noted that it is probably the only one in the USA. The township now has the steel to do the new roof on the Powder House.

Reports, Comments, and Questions from the Public

Diana Charles of U.S. Senator Carl Levin's office reported that Senator Levin was very disappointed that the park only received \$400,000 for planning the restoration of the C&H Union Building and Administration Building and not the four million dollars requested for the restoration of these two buildings. Charles stated that the Senator has also been involved in the plans for a major fund raising effort to relocate the Seaman Mineral Museum to Quincy Hill. It is an ongoing effort and the Senator has put the Seaman Mineral Museum in touch with the First Lady who is a big part of the millennium White House Council regarding Save America's Treasure's program. She has offered to hostess a reception for major donors at the White House, which will culminate the first major push to raise funds for the museum relocation efforts. Charles also noted the name of a major contributor, Lance Hampel of Wisconsin, who has pledged one million dollars toward the relocation as well as a collection of minerals worth two million dollars.

Amy Wisti of U.S. Congressman Bart Stupak's office commented that when she reports to Congressman Stupak, he will be happy to hear of the progress that is being made in so many areas of the park. She added that she would stay after the meeting if anyone would like to discuss anything with her.

John Griffith introduced himself saying he is the president of the Northwoods Conservancy. He is also the new owner of the Calumet Depot. He feels that the depot would not have made it through the last winter without a change in ownership. He has now stabilized the roof. The change in ownership would have not have occurred if the township hadn't taken action against the previous owner and he thanked Paul Lehto and Calumet Township for helping to save the depot. Griffith noted that there is a large number of people who are fascinated by trains and railroads and he posed the idea of linking the Calumet and Quincy park sites by rail in order to attract a whole new segment of visitors. Griffith said he would like to encourage the park to consider emphasizing not only the mining history, but also the natural history and the logging history. He added that these are important historical elements of the area.

Central Mine resident, Mrs. Duffy Liddicoat, expressed her concern over the poor rock piles in the region that are disappearing. She noted that a letter was sent out last June by Paul Lehto on behalf of the Advisory Commission to the owners of poor rock pile asking them to consider preserving some of the more significant rock piles. Thus far, there has been no response to the letter according to Lehto. Lehto said that much of the stamp sand and poor rock is being used by the counties for road construction. He added that he has heard that there is talk that the EPA may eventually outlaw use of the stamp sand and poor rock. Fiala said the park is looking at possible strategies to preserve some of the rock piles.

Ed Yarbrough, manager of the Quincy Mine Hoist Association, reported that the association is in the process of acquiring some land. One purchase will increase the core area of Quincy from approximately 10 or 15 acres to 40 or 50 acres. The other purchase should be concluded by the end of the year and will increase the Quincy holdings on the southeast side of the road from 15 acres to about 100 acres. Yarbrough said he is very concerned about the stabilization of some of the Quincy buildings. He is also concerned about the artifacts and documents that have been acquired by QMHA. He said their significance needs to be assessed. Then the next step is conserving them and planning their use in exhibits. Attendance by visitors to the site has been down this year according to Yarbrough. This could be due to a cool June and high gas prices. Yarbrough added that the Hoist would be open to visitors during the winter months in order to generate some much-needed revenue. It will be open on weekends from mid December to mid March. The association has received a grant from UPPCO for three years for \$5,000 a year towards maintenance. It also received a grant from the park toward stabilization of the 1918 hoist house. Yarbrough thanked Fiala for the wonderful support that KNHP has given to cooperating sites since Fiala has been superintendent.

Peter Van Pelt, president of Keweenaw County Historical Society, commented on the preservation of the poor rock piles. He noted that the more visibility given to the issue of preserving some of the more significant rock piles the better. This publicity may help in preserving some of them. Van Pelt would like to see Central Mine become a cooperating site. The society owns about 38 acres at Central. They are working on restoring some of the buildings and exposing some foundations. The plans are to do a walking tour. He suggested that cooperating sites, the park, and the commission work together to market this area with the use of brochures, flyers, radio ads, and press releases. Van Pelt thanked Fiala for the monetary support given by the park toward the Pine Mountain Music Festival production of the "The Children of the Keweenaw" opera which will premier July 11 and 20, 2001, at the Calumet Theater. Other performances of the opera will take place between those two dates in Iron Mountain and Marquette.

Charlie Hopper, administrator of the Still Waters Community Elders Home stated Still Waters is interested in becoming a cooperating site. *Pasty.com*, which is a Web site of Still Waters, was chosen by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation as a Year 2000 information technology showcase site. It recently received a major corporate sponsorship. *Pasty.com*'s main computer server will now be housed in a large network center, which will allow *pasty.com* to make available to non-profit organizations Web sites free of charge.

Kathryn Eckert asked Fiala if there are many places that have already asked to be cooperating sites. He indicated that there were. Eckert suggested that perhaps some special criteria can be prepared as soon as possible to allow a worthy site like Central Mine, which is on the National Historic Register, to be admitted as a cooperating site quickly until permanent criteria is in place.

Jill Burkland of the Isle Royale Natural History Association said she is working with Brian Hoduski to develop a list of publications that presently exist that can be marketed by the association on behalf of KNHP. The association is selling books through their Web site as well as the visitor's center. If anyone has suggestions to add to the list of books or products for the

association to sell on behalf of KNHP, please let her know. The profits made on the sale of KNHP literature will go back to KNHP. The board is open to changing its name to indicate that it is connected to KNHP as well. The association's office has been moved. It is now located in the Pay Office on Quincy Hill.

Fiala said he would like to acknowledge the outstanding service of KNHP staff member Brian Hoduski who has been with the park a year. He has built from the ground up the park museum operation. He has contributed greatly to the Comprehensive Interpretive Planning Process. Fiala added that that Hoduski works diligently to complete a job. Fiala then presented him with a monetary gift. Hoduski thanked Fiala and noted that Joseph Mihal has been a great help to him.

Fiala announced that Doug Barnard, superintendent of Isle Royale National Park is gravely ill. Linda Witkowski, formerly of Isle Royale National Park, who has taken a position in another area of the National Park Service, is also gravely ill. Linda Witkowski was the acting superintendent for KNHP during 1997. Their public service to the NPS and in particular their service to Isle Royale National Park and Keweenaw National Historical Park was significant and should be acknowledged according to Fiala.

The next meeting of the KNHP Advisory Commission will be held on Tuesday, January 23, 2001.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:15 A.M.

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