



Upcoming Events

November 10- 6:00 - FOLK General Membership Meeting at Portage Library (on the Houghton waterfront) Community Room.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

by Constance Sherry

The FOLK Board of Directors has been stable for quite a few years with several long time members serving as President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Other members of the BOD chair committees including Highway Pickup, Forestry, Watershed Councils and Fund Raising.

This year will see some of those people resigning not only from their offices but from the Board. This leaves some vacancies and the opportunity for members at large to become more involved with FOLK. You have only to have been a member for one year at any time to be on the BOD.

We meet once a month at the Doelle Senior Center in Tapiola. This seems to be a central location for those who attend from Pequaming to Alston and Houghton. If you are interested in becoming a Board member please phone me at 482-2006 for more information. You may wish to attend some meetings to test the waters and find your niche before committing to chair a committee or becoming an officer.

I will step down as President this year. We do have a full slate of officers to present at the General Membership Meeting in November but new members of the BOD will be very welcome.

Serving as President has been a rewarding experience for me. Though we all support the goals and purpose of FOLK we have lively discussions of issues and I have learned much at each meeting that I have attended. Though we may sometimes strongly disagree, what I see repeatedly is each person on the BOD listening to each other and being respectful of each other's opinions. I have met many new and knowledgeable people through FOLK who have been a delight and become long term friends.

I hope that you will consider joining us in working to keep our beautiful area a special place to live.

Valley View Quarry

Moyle Sand and Gravel's rock quarry, called the Valley View Quarry, was built to provide rock products to the local community. The need to build this facility arose when Moyle used up all the available rock tailings from the abandoned Isle Royale Mine.

This facility became controversial among local residents because of the noise from the crushing machinery, and the blasting that was necessary to dislodge and break up the rock into manageable pieces. Moyle reportedly did not apply for a zoning permit for the facility, believing that state statutes trump local zoning. Portage Township decided not to pursue a legal challenge to this project until a Michigan Supreme Court case involving a similar situation was resolved.

On July 15, the Michigan Supreme Court decision upheld the township's right to establish and enforce ordinances regarding mineral extraction within their borders. Based on this precedent, the attorney for the township advised the board they would be within their rights to ask Moyle to cease operations at the quarry while the zoning issues were worked out. The township board authorized the attorney to begin legal steps to enforce the zoning ordinance, including an order for Moyle to cease operations within 10 days. At this point operations have not ceased. A lawsuit been filed by a group of local residents, and a date for the township's pretrial hearing is pending.

NEW - Pay Dues/Donate to FOLK Online

The FOLK web page (www.folkup.org) was recently updated to allow members to donate and/or pay their dues online using PayPal. This method of payment allows credit cards, bank e-checks, and PayPal account balances to be used to send money to FOLK.

To use this new system, go to the FOLK web page and click on the Donation/Membership link on the left side of the page. From there, click on the "Donate" button and follow the prompts. This new method is easiest for people with PayPal accounts, but others that have used it say it is very easy even for non-PayPal members.

We're interested in your feedback if you use this new system. Our goal is to make supporting FOLK as easy as possible. Thanks once again for all your support.



FOLK

FOLK, formed in 1989, was established to oppose the siting of any paper/pulp mill in Keweenaw Bay. FOLK continues to promote a healthy environment in the Keweenaw Peninsula and the Lake Superior Watershed.

(Please Print) Name _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

Telephone «PHONE» _____ Date _____

- Individual (Annual Membership) - \$10 \$ _____
 - Senior Citizen, Unemployed, Student (Annual) - \$5 \$ _____
 - Organization (Annual) - \$35 \$ _____
 - Check here if you do **NOT** want your free (one per family) FOLK tote bag
 - Additional Contributions: \$ _____
- Total enclosed:** \$ _____

Send to: FOLK · PO Box 213 · L'Anse, Michigan 49946

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General Membership Meeting November 10

FOLK's 2010 General Membership Meeting will be held at 6:00 pm on November 10 at the community room of the Portage Lake District Library in Houghton. Gabe Caplett and Theresa Bertossi will be our speakers this year. Gabe and Theresa are well-known for their work bringing information to the public about the dangers of sulfide mining. You can visit their website headwatersnews.net for more information about their work.

FOLK's business meeting will begin promptly at 6:00 pm with an update of our year's accomplishments, reports from the officers, election of officers, a question and answer session on the proposed by-laws, and the all-important vote by the membership on the by-laws. Immediately after the business meeting, our speakers will give their presentation. Food and beverages will be provided. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

FOLK By-Laws

A subcommittee of the FOLK board has been working on a revision of our governing document, called our by-laws, for over a year. This summer the committee finished their work and presented the proposed by-laws to the steering committee, where they were passed unanimously. At the upcoming General Membership Meeting November 10, a vote will be held from the FOLK members in attendance to make these by-laws official.

The steering committee feels that while the old by-laws were adequate, this revision tightens up procedures and articulates policies based on years of experience. It also made us take a good look at ourselves, the work we do, and the future of the organization, which is always an important procedure.

Please consider taking a look at the by-laws online (folkup.org) and attending the General Membership Meeting (see previous article) to vote on this important issue for our group. If you'd prefer to have a hard copy of the proposed by-laws, please contact FOLK and we'll put a copy in the mail for you.

Woodland Road Update

Kennecott Minerals proposed a privately financed road from the Eagle Nine to US 41 near Humboldt. This \$50 million-dollar project

was to have been primarily used to haul ore and gravel to and from the mine site, but also open for public use. This proposed road crossed numerous streams and wetlands. Permit applications were submitted to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In March, the EPA responded, along with comments from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Army Corps of Engineers. Several concerns were raised in the letter, particularly regarding wetlands impacts. In May Kennecott pulled their permit application and shelved the project in its current form.

It has recently been announced that Kennecott has offered to provide the funds to the Marquette County Road Commission for an all-season road to be built west of the proposed Woodland Road, and the Marquette County Board voted unanimously in support of this project. Gerald Corkin, chair of the Marquette County Board of Commissioners said "The road makes sense from a public safety point of view." If the trucks hauling ore have to traverse existing roads, communities will experience the added risk of having numerous heavily laden ore trucks on their roads daily. When asked if the board considered the impact on the environment and wildlife on a road that bisects such a large wild area, he said they'd had, "...hearings for years and heard all that stuff."

Jim Iwancki from the Marquette County Road Commission (MCRC,) also sees the Woodland Road project as a public safety issue. "If you look at a map and look where they're trying to access, you'll know why they've chosen this location." When asked if this road might not be overkill for a hauling road for the Eagle Mine, which is supposed to last only 7 years, he felt that other mines may spring up in the area as well as other industries. "This mine might be just tip of the iceberg," he said.

Excellent coverage of the Woodland Road situation is also available at <http://www.keweenawnow.blogspot.com/>

Newsletter Editor Needed

Newsletter editor Ted Soldan is moving on to other challenges after the December issue, and the FOLK Board is currently looking for a replacement. The FOLK newsletter comes out about 4 times per year with a few supplemental mailings as needed, and is an important means of communication with our membership. If you like writing, editing and are interested in educating the membership on environmental issues, please consider becoming the next FOLK newsletter editor. For more information on this interesting and important job contact Linda at 334-2553.