

November 15th, 2021

To: International Dark-Sky Association

Re: Keweenaw Mountain Lodge - Keweenaw Dark Sky Wilderness application

From: Eagle Harbor Township, Michigan - Park Committee

Eagle Harbor Township is situated in Keweenaw County, Michigan. The Keweenaw Peninsula is rapidly becoming a wilderness adventure and eco-friendly tourist destination in the Midwest. Such wilderness and eco-tourist activities include but are not limited to mountain biking, hiking trails, bird watching, designated ATV and snowmobile trails, fishing, water sports such as kayaking and night sky viewing.

Within Eagle Harbor Township are many locations which encourage participation by the public in all of these activities. One of these locations is Brockway Mountain. Brockway Mountain West Bluff is 700 feet above Lake Superior offering incredible views of lake, peninsula and the night sky. Brockway Mountain was privately owned and open to the public with access by a seasonal road maintained by the Keweenaw County Road Commission. When the 320 acre summit property went for sale, the Township and local partners were fortunate to be able purchase the property with the intention of keeping it open to the public. Eagle Harbor Township has placed the development of Brockway Mountain into its 5-year Recreational Plan and 5-year Comprehensive Plan, both recently updated. Both of these plans encourage additional development of wilderness and eco-friendly tourist activities.

Currently there are many uses of Brockway Mountain. One of these is night sky viewing. The Keweenaw Mountain Lodge located in neighboring Grant Township is promoting itself as a location to experience wilderness activities which includes night sky viewing. They hold night sky workshops to educate people how to take night sky photos, how to use portable telescopes and have taken guests to Brockway Mountain to practice these skills.

The Keweenaw Mountain Lodge is in the process of applying for official Dark Sky designation. The Park Committee encourages the Lodge to continue to pursue this application and designation. Night sky viewing is a passive activity that fits into the wilderness and eco-friendly tourist industry that is being promoted for our area, and we hope the International Dark Sky Association acts favorably on the Keweenaw Mountain Lodges application.

Sincerely,

Rich Prost, Jr. – Township Supervisor Eagle Harbor Township Park Committee

cc: John Mueller, Keweenaw Mountain Lodge - Keweenaw Dark Sky Wilderness

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