

March 5, 2020

Jo Ann Clemens

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Dear Ms. Clemens,

Thank you for your letter of January 31, 2020, regarding the Pink House at the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge), asking for an update on its status.

The Refuge does still own the Pink House and does not require insurance as the U.S. Government is self-insured. No solicitation for demolition work has been issued to date.

The Stott property was purchased in 2011 for its value in furthering the conservation purposes of the Refuge. In 2014, we determined that the building was not suitable as housing for seasonal staff, and that no other use for the Refuge was feasible. We had initially planned to demolish the house and consider locating a wildlife viewing platform at the site with very limited, short-term parking.

A preliminary environmental survey of the building was completed in 2014. The scope of the survey included accessible asbestos-containing building material in accordance with State inspection requirements, and screening for the presence of lead paint.

The Refuge has been working with Support The Pink House (STPH) as a potential partner since they approached us to save the structure. I encourage you to contact the group directly for questions regarding their policy on advisory board and steering committee meetings.

The Pink House does not meet the criteria for listing on the National Historic Register and was deemed ineligible for this status in 2011. The idea of an exhibit is an interesting one, which can be visited later and will be dependent on the outcome of the current effort.

As you know, demolition was put on hold in 2015 to explore the possibility of an exchange. Since then, much time and effort has been spent identifying potential properties to exchange so that the STPH group can move forward with their goal of saving the building in its current location. We will not provide information relating to discussions concerning land acquisition due to privacy concerns for the parties involved.

We are committed to working with partners to find a solution that works for all parties involved and expect to make a determination on this effort within the next 12 months. If a successful outcome for all parties is not possible, we will move forward with other options.

I appreciate your interest in the Refuge, as well as your support for protecting the Great Marsh for the communities and wildlife that depend on it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Ware". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Sharon Ware
Acting Refuge Manager