

January 31, 2020

Dear Bill:

Sharon Ware

I am doing some research on The Pink House and I am having difficulty getting information from the Save the Pink House Steering Committee.

The Pink House is presumably still owned the federal government / Parker River Refuge and therefore I will put forth my questions to you as the Refuge Manager. I assume there are policies and regulations regarding transparency given the Refuge is a federal agency.

1. Does the Parker River Refuge still own the Pink House?
2. Has the Pink House been tested for lead paint and or asbestos? If so, what is the status. If the house has not been tested why not? The Save The Pink House group has stated the house likely DOES NOT contain lead paint or asbestos. I would think this is a yes or no answer.
3. Did the Refuge get quotes from contractors regarding the demo of the house? If so what was the price quote.
4. Are you, as the Refuge Manager on the advisory board of the Save The Pink House, do you attend all their meetings?
5. Are the steering meetings of Save The Pink House open to the public?
6. Are details of the current negotiations of a land swap public information, if so, how do I obtain information.
7. What was your original intent when the Refuge purchased the Pink House?
8. I believe you once said you were thinking of using the land (after the Pink House was demolished) for a parking lot for field trip buses for kids. If this is true do you think this remains a good option for the land?
9. Do you have any other ideas for use of the land if the house is demolished or do you have any ideas on how the Refuge can "memorialize" the house to appease the artists who want to save the Pink House (example – a tribute to the house with art, photos, etc at the Refuge Headquarters or somewhere else on the Refuge.
10. Do you personally feel our community and the Great Marsh and the gateway to the Refuge is better off with a complete pink house rebuild / renovation project with the intent that it is sold to a private buyer (as a single-family home)?
11. Who is the paying the liability insurance for the house as it is today?
12. What is the deadline for the decision? How many times have you extended the deadline?

Bill, I appreciate your cooperation and help.

A bit about me, I have lived in Newburyport for 32 years. I am a volunteer on the Energy Advisory Committee in Newburyport (7 years), I am a net zero energy user at home (I have a solar system). I do not use fertilizer or other toxic chemicals on my lawn as I am "uphill" and only 1 block from the Merrimac River, plus I don't believe in using chemicals in general. I was on the steering committee for the Newburyport Green Expo last year. I was the solar coach for the city solar program a couple years ago. I call myself an environmentalist and I am voting for nature and protecting the fragile eco system over saving a house that happens to be painted pink and adored by artists.