

Re: [EXTERNAL] PH Meeting

Hillman, Matthew D <matthew_hillman@fws.gov>

Wed 11/1/2023 11:18 AM

To: Morfill, Katherine (Markey) <Katherine_Morfill@markey.senate.gov>; Freedman, Caroline (Warren) <Caroline_Freedman@warren.senate.gov>; Bovio, Kelly <Kelly.Bovio@mail.house.gov>; Horsman, Liam (Markey) <Liam_Horsman@markey.senate.gov>
Cc: Joseph, Jennifer A <jennifer_joseph@fws.gov>

Hi All,

Below, please find the press release and draft Environmental Assessment which is now live on our website. I expect at least one newspaper article (Newburyport Daily) to be published later today.

Best,

Matt

[Public Comment Period for Pink House Environmental Assessment | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service \(fws.gov\)](#)



Public Comment Period for Pink House Environmental Assessment | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge has opened a 30-day public comment period on a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) that includes a proposal to demolish the house at 60 Plum Island Turnpike in Newbury, MA, commonly known as the Pink House, and to restore the

www.fws.gov

Matt Hillman

Refuge Manager

[Parker River](#), [Thacher Island](#)

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6 Plum Island Turnpike

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NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM

From: Hillman, Matthew D <matthew_hillman@fws.gov>

Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 1:37 PM

To: Morfill, Katherine (Markey) <Katherine_Morfill@markey.senate.gov>; Freedman, Caroline (Warren) <Caroline_Freedman@warren.senate.gov>; Bovio, Kelly <Kelly.Bovio@mail.house.gov>; Horsman, Liam (Markey) <Liam_Horsman@markey.senate.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] PH Meeting

Hi All,

While the writing has been on the wall the past couple months, I want to more directly state that tomorrow I plan to outline the extensive rationale behind our *proposal* to demolish the Pink House as early as this winter, after a 30-day public comment period (Nov 1-30). This will of course be a painful thing for everyone to hear, but I know that Rochelle and the group has acknowledged many times the considerable effort we have undertaken collectively for over 7 years to exchange the property. The unfortunate reality is that continuing along that path indefinitely is not in the public's best interest. Public release of the draft document will be this Weds, Nov 01.

In other news, the public comment period for our Habitat Management Plan concluded over the weekend. We hosted 3 public Q&A sessions (2 in-person, 1 virtual) and received over 90 comments -- many of which opposed our proposal to restore three human-created freshwater impoundments back to their natural salt marsh. While there has been a lot of misinformation (stemming from columns in the local newspaper), our rationale for this proposed change is based on years of scientific data collected by staff and third party research institutions. Given our climate change realities, it's crucial that we follow where the science leads us. I do acknowledge and appreciate that proposing such a change is difficult for many, particularly birdwatchers, many of whom visit these impoundments daily.

If you would like to chat further about any of the above, please do not hesitate to call.

Needless to say, a very busy fall! Looking forward to seeing you (virtually) this Wednesday.

Matt

Matt Hillman

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NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM

From: Hillman, Matthew D <matthew_hillman@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 1:55 PM
To: Morfill, Katherine (Markey) <Katherine_Morfill@markey.senate.gov>; Freedman, Caroline (Warren) <Caroline_Freedman@warren.senate.gov>; Bovio, Kelly <Kelly.Bovio@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Horsman, Liam (Markey) <Liam_Horsman@markey.senate.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] PH Meeting

My pleasure. I look forward to discussing this with you 10/31 at 12:30p. Teams link forthcoming.

Matt Hillman

Refuge Manager

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NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM

From: Morfill, Katherine (Markey) <Katherine_Morfill@markey.senate.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2023 9:41 AM
To: Freedman, Caroline (Warren) <Caroline_Freedman@warren.senate.gov>; Bovio, Kelly <Kelly.Bovio@mail.house.gov>; Hillman, Matthew D <matthew_hillman@fws.gov>
Cc: Horsman, Liam (Markey) <Liam_Horsman@markey.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] PH Meeting

Team Markey can make Halloween work! Thanks so much for coordinating with Rochelle, Matt.

From: Freedman, Caroline (Warren) <Caroline_Freedman@warren.senate.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 13, 2023 5:01 PM
To: Bovio, Kelly <Kelly.Bovio@mail.house.gov>; Hillman, Matthew D <matthew_hillman@fws.gov>
Cc: Morfill, Katherine (Markey) <Katherine_Morfill@markey.senate.gov>; Horsman, Liam (Markey) <Liam_Horsman@markey.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] PH Meeting

Yup! Works great for me.

From: Bovio, Kelly <Kelly.Bovio@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 13, 2023 3:39 PM
To: Hillman, Matthew D <matthew_hillman@fws.gov>
Cc: Morfill, Katherine (Markey) <Katherine_Morfill@markey.senate.gov>; Horsman, Liam (Markey) <Liam_Horsman@markey.senate.gov>; Freedman, Caroline (Warren) <Caroline_Freedman@warren.senate.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] PH Meeting

I can make it then. Will let Team Markey and Warren weigh-in. Thanks, Matt!

From: Hillman, Matthew D <matthew_hillman@fws.gov>
Date: Friday, October 13, 2023 at 1:15 PM
To: Bovio, Kelly <Kelly.Bovio@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Morfill, Katherine (Markey) <Katherine_Morfill@markey.senate.gov>, Horsman, Liam (Markey) <Liam_Horsman@markey.senate.gov>, Freedman, Caroline (Warren) <Caroline_Freedman@warren.senate.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] PH Meeting

Hi Kelly,

Rochelle can't commit yet to the other dates I proposed but she *can* do Halloween, 10/31. Would 12:30p-1:30p work that day (or anytime in the afternoon before 3:00p)? Less than ideal but options are limited (she may be able to make 11/01 work but will not know until later).

Matt Hillman

Refuge Manager

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From: Bovio, Kelly <Kelly.Bovio@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 5:48 PM
To: Hillman, Matthew D <matthew_hillman@fws.gov>
Cc: Morfill, Katherine (Markey) <Katherine_Morfill@markey.senate.gov>; Horsman, Liam (Markey) <Liam_Horsman@markey.senate.gov>; Freedman, Caroline (Warren) <Caroline_Freedman@warren.senate.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] PH Meeting

That works for us. Thanks so much!

From: Hillman, Matthew D <matthew_hillman@fws.gov>
Date: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 5:19 PM
To: Bovio, Kelly <Kelly.Bovio@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Morfill, Katherine (Markey) <Katherine_Morfill@markey.senate.gov>, Horsman, Liam (Markey) <Liam_Horsman@markey.senate.gov>, Freedman, Caroline (Warren) <Caroline_Freedman@warren.senate.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] PH Meeting

Hi Kelly -- all is very well. We have a public meeting here tonight at 6p to field questions and gather comments on our Habitat Management Plan. That public comment period extends through Oct 28, and we will need at least a few days between comment periods before releasing the next EA on the Pink House. I cannot solidify an exact release date at this stage, but I've been speaking with Rochelle this week and will mention to her that we will plan a meeting around the first week in November (exact date TBD) to go over next steps. Would that time frame work for you?

Hope you're enjoying this nice week so far.

Matt

Matt Hillman

Refuge Manager

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From: Bovio, Kelly <Kelly.Bovio@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 5:11 PM
To: Hillman, Matthew D <matthew_hillman@fws.gov>
Cc: Morfill, Katherine (Markey) <Katherine_Morfill@markey.senate.gov>; Horsman, Liam (Markey) <Liam_Horsman@markey.senate.gov>; Freedman, Caroline (Warren) <Caroline_Freedman@warren.senate.gov>
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Hi Matt,

How are you? I am reaching out on behalf of the federal delegation to follow-up on your plans to schedule a meeting with all of us and the Pink House advocates. Rochelle has reached out to us on several occasions to request a meeting. A discussion with all of us at the table makes the most sense at this point.

If you're able to reach out to them soon, simply to offer dates for late October – which, I believe, is when you were hoping to hold the discussion – we would certainly appreciate it. Please let us know what would be possible on your end.

Thanks so much!

Kelly

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Kelly Bovio

District Director and Legislative Advisor
21 Front Street | Salem, MA 01970
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