



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Valley Forge National Historical Park  
1400 North Outer Line Drive  
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1009

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H42 (VAFO-P)

**JUN 13 2012**

Mr. Justin Newell  
Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Index  
208 Airport Drive  
Middletown, PA 17057

Dear Mr. Newell:

At Valley Forge National Historical Park the National Park Service proposes to issue a Request for Proposals to lease the house and immediately associated grounds of the Philander Chase Knox estate. The tenant will use the area for private events between April and the end of October, erecting a tent on the lawn east of the house.

The purpose of the project is to provide managed public access to the house and also to provide revenue for its ongoing maintenance and preservation. Proposed exterior work includes construction of a gravel valet-parking lot and access lane within the former walled garden; repair and rehabilitation of the reflecting pond; and the addition of a new 10' wide access land added between Library Lane and the proposed parking lot.

This letter serves as a record that the NPS is initiating informal consultation with your agency pursuant to the requirements of the 1973 Endangered Species Act, as amended, and NPS *Management Policies*, 2006. As part of the scoping for this project we request any information regarding listed or proposed threatened or endangered species or critical habitats that might occur in the project vicinity, and any special management considerations for such species.

The project area is delineated on the enclosed section of the U.S. Geological Survey topographic map for the vicinity (Valley Forge Pennsylvania quad). We also welcome any comments you may have regarding the project. Our intent is to address your agency's concerns and incorporate any recommendations into the planning process at the earliest possible time.

Please forward your response to me by July 15, 2012 at the above address.

If you have any questions, please contact please contact Deirdre Gibson, Chief of Planning and Resource Management at the above address, by telephone at

(610) 783-1047, or by email at [deirdre\\_gibson@nps.gov](mailto:deirdre_gibson@nps.gov). Your participation in the scoping process for this project is important to us and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kate H. Hammond".

 Kate H. Hammond  
Superintendent

Enclosures