

TO: Lewes Planning Commission

FROM: David and Maryanne Ennis 8/27/19

RE: Fishers Cove Development

Groundwater has increased substantially in the last 20 years on Harborview, Hoornkill and Rodney Streets. The City of Lewes legally recognized this on Harborview with financial expenditures to dig earthen swales, build a bridge, enlarge earthen swales, increase the dimensions of storm sewers, add new storm sewers, increase property drainage with the addition of fill to several properties (4 or more), and still the ground water rises on our properties. Owners have added stone to crawl spaces and added additional sump pumps. They have repaired driveways that have humped due to additional submerged water. The water threatens the wells and septic to County residents on Hoornkill. Yet, more damage came.

Why did the dog park have water high enough to reach their electrical element? Why was more than twice as much fill added to the dog park site than was planned?

And now we have Harbor Point with 12 feet of fill being added, and where does the excess water flow? (Everything flows downhill!)

Have you seen water gushing up from the pipes under the causeway on Park Road during or after a storm? Water from the Great Marsh and Canary Creek seek the Lagoon.

When water migrates to the Lagoon near Fishers Cove, residents on Rodney, Hoornkill and Harborview see water rising in our yards and around our homes and driveways. When the wind keeps the water in the Inlet and rain continues, so does our flooding. The final water release into Roosevelt Inlet, Lewes Canal and Broadkill River also adds more contaminants, and HDML levels already exceed safety standards.

Haven't we learned a lesson from Houston? Like Houston, the only place for the water to go is up... Up into our homes! Please Deny Fishers Cove on environmental issues.

From: [Thierry Poirey - 19 Harborview Road](#)
To: [Thomas West](#)
Subject: Fishers Cove Comment
Date: Thursday, August 29, 2019 12:52:20 PM

Name: Thierry Poirey - 19 Harborview Road

Email: tpoirey@yahoo.com

Website:

Message: To the Planning Commission: based on often contradictory and inconclusive information communicated by various parties during public hearings and otherwise, I consider that the Commission currently does not have all elements necessary to make a preliminary recommendation on a project as significant as Fishers Cove. To ensure that the City Council does not initiate its examination of the project until comprehensive and detailed information has been vetted by the Commission, the Commission should defer any recommendation (for, against or of any nature) until the Commission has a thorough and accurate understanding of water impacts on the community including existing houses, roads and public facilities. For such an assessment to be relevant, impacts should be measured based on a variety of scenarios including a nor'easter occurring at high tide. In the assessment, impervious surfaces at Fishers Cove should be assumed to be the maximum allowed by regulations, unless a lower limit is set as a condition accepted by the developer. Harbor Point, a program under construction in Sussex county just behind Fishers Cove, should be taken into consideration in the assessment. When issuing its recommendation, the Commission should be able to tell neighbors and stakeholders in Lewes, with a reasonable degree of certainty, where most if not all water will flow during future rainfalls and major storms. Any recommendation issued without such information would be worthless and shameful. To the extent allowed, I suggest that before voting on Fishers Cove the Commission should take a procedural vote on deferring any decision until further information on water impacts has been received and vetted.

Time: August 29, 2019 at 4:52 pm

IP Address: 98.218.243.223

Contact Form URL: https://lewescommissions.wordpress.com/reviews/dev_reviews/fishers-cove/

Sent by an unverified visitor to your site.

From: [Cindy and John Abood](#)
To: [Thomas West](#)
Subject: Fishers Cove Comment
Date: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 11:49:12 AM

Name: Cindy and John Abood

Email: cabood@comcast.net

Website:

Message: Fishers Cove lagoon water levels will increase because of the additional impervious surface resulting from the construction of roads, sidewalks, driveways, and houses. This will increase the potential for flooding of adjacent properties, which include existing homes on Rodney Ave, Hoornkill Ave, and Pilottown Road. Every day dump trucks full of dirt is being hauled in to raise the lots at Harbor Point. This will only result in more runoff to the surrounding area.

Please do not allow this to happen.

Time: August 28, 2019 at 3:49 pm

IP Address: 174.200.34.90

Contact Form URL: https://lewescommissions.wordpress.com/reviews/dev_reviews/fishers-cove/

Sent by an unverified visitor to your site.

From: [Cinda Bradford](#)
To: [Thomas West](#)
Subject: Fishers Cove Comment
Date: Thursday, August 29, 2019 4:15:41 PM

Name: Cinda Bradford

Email: workwood777@yahoo.com

Website:

Message: I do not understand why this continues to be considered a debatable issue?!?
Anyone with any amount of common sense can see why this land has never been developed before. I am asking you to stop lining your pockets and use your head for thinking please!!

Time: August 29, 2019 at 8:15 pm

IP Address: 174.200.29.153

Contact Form URL: https://lewescommissions.wordpress.com/reviews/dev_reviews/fishers-cove/

Sent by an unverified visitor to your site.

From: [Robin Petrusak](#)
To: [Thomas West](#)
Subject: Fishers Cove Comment
Date: Thursday, August 29, 2019 12:41:43 PM

Name: Robin Petrusak

Email: rpetrusak@yahoo.com

Website:

Message: Dear Members of the Lewes Planning Commission and City Council,

I am a Lewes homeowner and resident. I am contacting you to ask that the Lewes Planning Commission recommend the proposed Fishers Cove subdivision be denied. My primary concern is the detrimental impact of the development on the Great Marsh/Canary Creek Basin. The construction of additional paved surfaces such as roads and driveways, plus the additional houses, and the potential construction of a raised access road around the wetland area will increase runoff, divert storm surge away from the flood plain and increase the potential for flooding in the adjacent communities on Rodney and Hoorncill Avenues and Pilottown Road. The developer has not submitted an adequate plan that demonstrates how these adverse impacts will be prevented.

As a resident of Lewes, I advocate that the city protect and preserve its wetland and flood plain environments. The economic value of such lands in mitigating runoff, reducing the severity and impact of flood events and promoting aquifer recharge has not been adequately considered.

The Fishers Cove developers have provided insufficient information and inadequate documentation of their proposal for the Lewes Planning Commission to make an informed and prudent decision. I urge that preliminary consent be denied.

Sincerely,

Robin Petrusak
15 Surf Avenue, Lewes

Time: August 29, 2019 at 4:41 pm

IP Address: 23.24.125.253

Contact Form URL: https://lewescommissions.wordpress.com/reviews/dev_reviews/fishers-cove/

Sent by an unverified visitor to your site.

From: [Ken Bardales](#)
To: [Thomas West](#)
Subject: Fishers Cove Comment
Date: Thursday, August 29, 2019 10:49:31 AM

Name: Ken Bardales

Email: kabardales@hotmail.com

Website:

Message: I would urge the planning commission to recommend denial of the 18 lot subdivision known as Fisher Cove. I live in the general vicinity, but not adjacent to the proposed construction area. The roadways, sidewalks, and other surfaces will no doubt lead to increased flooding of homes on Rodney and Hoornkill Avenues. Recent plans to divert water have not been explained in detail. To build these homes without a clear Stormwater management plan is unfair to all of the current homeowners in the area.

I watch hundreds of dump truck loads of soil being dumped every single day in Harbor Point. This has been going on for most of the summer. This will also have an affect on flooding in the area, especially on neighboring communities.

Please deny the current preliminary application and protect the homeowners in the immediate area from future flooding on their properties.

Time: August 29, 2019 at 2:49 pm

IP Address: 68.33.89.9

Contact Form URL: https://lewescommissions.wordpress.com/reviews/dev_reviews/fishers-cove/

Sent by an unverified visitor to your site.

From: [Nadine wick](#)
To: [Thomas West](#)
Subject: Fishers Cove Comment
Date: Thursday, August 29, 2019 10:48:01 AM

Name: Nadine wick

Email: wickns@hotmail.com

Website:

Message: This piece of land was looked at for development in 89'. It is now again being aggressively sought after not for the betterment of the community but for the sole purpose to make money at the risk of damaging homes on Rodney St. The developers idea of managing run off from the marsh is nonsense. You know this is wrong, deny Fishers Cove

Time: August 29, 2019 at 2:48 pm

IP Address: 73.134.137.120

Contact Form URL: https://lewescommissions.wordpress.com/reviews/dev_reviews/fishers-cove/

Sent by an unverified visitor to your site.

From: [Edgar Johnson](#)
To: [Thomas West](#)
Subject: Fishers Cove Comment
Date: Thursday, August 29, 2019 8:42:58 AM

Name: Edgar Johnson

Email: edgarj@udel.edu

Website:

Message: I am concerned that building homes in an area that periodically floods will exacerbate the problem and compromise the integrity of existing homes. When is enough building enough?

Let's stand up for the safety of existing home owners and deny this development.

Time: August 29, 2019 at 12:43 pm

IP Address: 76.124.92.158

Contact Form URL: https://lewescommissions.wordpress.com/reviews/dev_reviews/fishers-cove/

Sent by an unverified visitor to your site.

From: [Clare Johnson](#)
To: [Thomas West](#)
Subject: Fishers Cove Comment
Date: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 1:32:27 PM

Name: Clare Johnson

Email: shortyvfoot@yahoo.com

Website:

Message: I recommend denial on Fishers Cove since I live on Hoornkill Ave. During the “Sandy Storm” I saw the flooding that resulted. I feel interfering with the Marsh will only make it worse. Also, the infrastructure around Lewes can’t handle the traffic it will create. Thank you for taking your time to ponder this action.

Sincerely,
Clare Johnson

Time: August 28, 2019 at 5:32 pm

IP Address: 73.128.65.213

Contact Form URL: https://lewescommissions.wordpress.com/reviews/dev_reviews/fishers-cove/

Sent by an unverified visitor to your site.

From: [George Barber](#)
To: [Thomas West](#)
Subject: Fishers Cove Comment
Date: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 12:43:03 PM

Name: George Barber

Email: barbergh@comcsst.net

Website:

Message: Please deny the Fishers cove application

Time: August 28, 2019 at 4:43 pm

IP Address: 73.141.226.32

Contact Form URL: https://lewescommissions.wordpress.com/reviews/dev_reviews/fishers-cove/

Sent by an unverified visitor to your site.

From: [Cynthia and Carl Opderbeck](#)
To: [Thomas West](#)
Subject: Fishers Cove Comment
Date: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 12:31:40 PM

Name: Cynthia and Carl Opderbeck

Email: cynopderbeck@hotmail.com

Website:

Message: We are writing to ask the Lewes Planning Commission to recommend denial of the proposed Fishers Cove subdivision.

This is extremely important because, as you know, the development is in an environmentally sensitive flood plain. Even the recent Flood Study noted increased flooding was possible. At the 8/21 public hearing the developer's attorney and engineer said they were considering diverting storm water into the canal rather than the Great Marsh/Canary Creek Basin. And yet they are not submitting updated plans. This therefore is not the usual application process, and the normal rules governing the process clearly do not fit this set of circumstances. Given the lack of specific details the LPC should be very wary of setting precedents such as this.

Fishers Cove lagoon water levels will increase because of the additional impervious surface which will result from the construction of roads, sidewalks, driveways, and houses. This will increase the potential for flooding of adjacent properties, which include existing homes on Rodney Avenue, Hoornkill Avenue, and Pilottown Road.

Fishers Cove Development will eliminate most of the short- and long-term beneficial functions of the flood plain, such as filtering nutrients and impurities from runoff, promoting infiltration and aquifer recharge, and reducing flood velocities and peaks.

Use of Rodney Avenue as the entrance to Fishers Cove will require, as you know, construction of a raised road around the wetlands. The road elevation will divert storm surge to surrounding properties, causing increased flooding.

The use of Rodney Avenue as the entrance to Fishers Cove is inconsistent with the city of Lewes' core value #5: "Lewes recognizes and maintains its internal communities". Rodney Avenue and Hoornkill Avenue are among the oldest internal Lewes communities and should be protected and preserved! Their neighborhood of modest homes and quiet streets should be treasured.

There is insufficient information upon which to make a good decision at this point, and proposed changes to the application are being suggested orally for critical elements of the proposal, even at this late date. Preliminary consent approval at this time may be premature and even imprudent.

Please, please recommend denial of the proposed Fishers Cove subdivision.

Thank you very much for your serious consideration of these comments supporting preservation of the existing neighborhood communities and denial of the Fishers Cove

subdivision.

Time: August 28, 2019 at 4:31 pm

IP Address: 73.87.57.152

Contact Form URL: https://lewescommissions.wordpress.com/reviews/dev_reviews/fishers-cove/

Sent by an unverified visitor to your site.

From: [Helaine Harris](#)
To: [Thomas West](#)
Subject: Fishers Cove Comment
Date: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 12:31:35 PM

Name: Helaine Harris

Email: hcat75@gmail.com

Website:

Message: August 28, 2019

Hello. I am writing to ask the Lewes Planning Commission to recommend denial of the proposed Fishers Cove subdivision.

This proposed development is in a flood plain. I actually read the Flood Study, and I believe that it demonstrated that there is a good possibility of flooding in that area. I am especially concerned with the possibility that the developer will divert storm water into the canal. If they want to do this as they suggested at the 8/21 public hearing, then they should send the LPC updated plans. Given the lack of specific detail, and the ever-changing nature of the plans, the LPC should be very careful with this particular application.

The Fishers Cove area already floods regularly and the water levels will increase because of the additional impervious surface resulting from the construction of roads, sidewalks, driveways, and houses. This will increase the potential for flooding of adjacent properties, which include existing homes on Rodney Ave, Hornkill Ave, and Pilottown Road.

I am particularly concerned about the plan to use Rodney Avenue as the entrance to Fishers Cove. If for some reason, this development is approved for the next step by LPC, then the developer should at least be required to provide access to the new neighborhood through Fishers Cove property, not Rodney Avenue.

I have attended a couple of meetings concerning the Fishers Cove subdivision, and have been very concerned that this application is changing all the time, but not in written form. Preliminary consent by the LPC at this time on such an important piece of Lewes property should be denied.

Thank you for the work and dedication of your committee.

Sincerely,

Helaine Harris
234 Shipcarpenter Street
Lewes, DE 19958

Time: August 28, 2019 at 4:31 pm
IP Address: 71.206.47.214

Contact Form URL: https://lewescommissions.wordpress.com/reviews/dev_reviews/fishers-cove/

Sent by an unverified visitor to your site.

From: [Mary Louise Lauffer](#)
To: [Thomas West](#)
Subject: Fishers Cove Comment
Date: Thursday, August 29, 2019 2:50:02 PM

Name: Mary Louise Lauffer

Email: virginseaglass@gmail.com

Website:

Message: Dear Planning Commission and City Council Members,
The Minor and Major Subdivision Plans for Fishers Cove, Lewes, should be denied.
My main concern is the exacerbation of flooding in the adjacent neighborhood and the Canary Creek Basin as a whole. I frequently visit friends on Hornkill, and have witnessed major flooding, and not necessarily just in major weather events like Sandy. The marshland needs to do its work. Any paving, adding impervious surfaces will increase the water flow and flooding in surrounding lands/marshes. I live near Canary Creek, and am well aware of the flooding problems from even minor tide/wind events.
Secondly, this is a very special , quiet, residential neighborhood with narrow roadways. For construction vehicles to enter the proposed development , the entry road would have to be widened, totally changing the character of this neighborhood. There would be large machinery and trucks in and out on a daily basis for a very long time, totally destroying the peaceful neighborhood existing there now.
I hope that you all will seriously consider the negative impacts this proposed development will have on the adjacent neighborhood and to the entire Canary Creek Basin. Thank you.

Time: August 29, 2019 at 6:50 pm
IP Address: 76.111.154.229
Contact Form URL: https://lewescommissions.wordpress.com/reviews/dev_reviews/fishers-cove/

Sent by an unverified visitor to your site.