

From: [Dan Zachem](#)
To: [Thomas West](#)
Subject: Fishers Cove Comment
Date: Wednesday, August 7, 2019 12:08:48 PM

Name: Dan Zachem

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Message: Honorable Members of the Planning Commission and City Council:

As accurately described in the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Lewes, our community "enjoys a rich history [and] small town ambiance..." Indeed, as previously stated by Mayor Becker, Lewes has a deep and abiding concern "for the protection of Lewes's appearance and the preservation of its historic structures."

The citizens of our community have come together to give meaning to these principles by, among other things, designating a considerable number of structures for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. One of the most revered of those properties is the home known as "Fisher's Paradise" on Pilot Town Road.

Originally constructed in the 1740's, "Fisher's Paradise" has a rich and textured history that makes the home and its surrounding property well worth preserving and protecting consistent with the stated principles of our community.

It is not just preservation for preservation's sake that motivates our collective desire to protect our shared history. Rather, as recognized by County leaders in drafting its Comprehensive Plan, in addition to preserving needed "perspective about days gone by, historic buildings and artifacts have contemporary economic value. Historic sites draw tourists, create jobs and generate commercial revenues." As succinctly stated by Joan Larrivee, historic tax credit program coordinator for the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, "Lewes' quaint charm draws in alot of visitors."

These ideas may seem self evident to community leaders such as yourselves, but often times economic pressures and the creep of development can complicate and compromise even the most fundamental of our community principles. I write now with a plea for you to act in the interests of the history of our community.

In short, Fisher's Paradise is one of the most beautiful and historic properties in our community and you folks should have the preservation of the house and its surrounding environs as one of your fundamental goals when considering the Fisher's Cove development application.

I sincerely join my neighbors and friends on Rodney and Hornkill Avenues in our joint expression of concern regarding the deleterious environmental effects of this proposed development. Rising sea levels are real. More frequent and more intense storms are real. The flooding risks are real. Please pay heed to these realities and the impact of continued development in our increasingly fragile environment.

I write separately, however, to express my additional concern for the continued integrity of the Fisher's Paradise property and to urge the Planning Commission to reject any proposal for a paved easement through the property to allow vehicular traffic to access the proposed development.

Any paved road to permit regular vehicular traffic will forever destroy the historic beauty of this beautiful and unique property. Equally important is the fact that such an access point will discourage future buyers willing to invest the considerable time, effort and money to fully restore the home to its previous glory.

As one of the neighbors privileged to live close to Fisher's Paradise, I observe daily the many bikers, trekkers and motorists who pause to enjoy the beauty of this property and appreciate its history. As noted above, this is not a plea of mere aesthetics. Please pause for a moment to consider that these are the folks who patronize our businesses and contribute to the financial well-being of our community. Diminish the attractions that draw visitors to our town and you hurt our collective pocketbook. Please think long term, not just culturally and historically, but economically as well.

I implore you to act now, consistent with the stated principles of our community to preserve and protect the integrity of this property and keep it intact for future generations to enjoy.

Dan Zachem

Time: August 7, 2019 at 4:08 pm

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