

From: Daniel Zachem [<mailto:dzachem@comcast.net>]
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 4:03 PM
To: Phillip Moore <pmoore@ci.lewes.de.us>
Subject: Minor Subdivision & Easement Request: Fisher's Cove

Mr. Moore:

Good Friday afternoon to you. Forgive me for filling up your inbox late on a Friday, but it is my understanding that both the Major and Minor Subdivision plans for the proposed Fisher's Cove development have been re-opened for public comment. If I may, permit me to share a few thoughts with you.

As a resident of Pilot Town Road, I stand with my friends and neighbors on Rodney Avenue in opposition to the proposed Fisher's Cove development. Without belaboring the point here, the record clearly establishes the danger that this proposed development would pose to the fragile ecosystem in which it would be placed. Understanding that that issue is now in the hands of the City Council and the Mayor, I write to you folks most specifically today with regard to the Minor Subdivision proposal which directly impacts the beautiful and historic property known as "Fisher's Paradise."

Simply put, the Fisher House must be preserved and maintained for future generations. Understanding that its current legal status on the National Register of Historic Places provides the home with minimal legal protections, this reality requires community leaders such as yourselves to step up and do not just what the law might require, but to do what is right.

If City leaders such as yourself approve the proposed development and, with it, a right of way through Fisher's Paradise, the City would lose a piece of its heritage and with it, a beautifully constructed piece of our shared history.

If the Major subdivision is approved but only with a right of way through this historic property, the minimal legal protection afforded to the Fisher House would inevitably lead to the razing of this historic landmark. Sadly, in this scenario, city leaders such as yourself would literally pave the way for its destruction. This is where strength of character, commitment to community values and a shared appreciation for our heritage will determine the character of the community in which we live.

My wife and I have the good fortune of appreciating this classic piece of Lewes history every day. We chat with the numerous bikers, trekkers and visitors to our community who stop to appreciate the beauty of this stately home. We have a shared responsibility to maintain these significant reminders of our history. And, to be clear, our shared interests as residents of Lewes is not merely some abstract appreciation for history, culture and stunning architecture. The trekkers and bikers? They spend their hard earned vacation dollars in our shops and restaurants. Folks visit Lewes precisely *because* of its publicly stated appreciation and commitment to our shared history.

If city leaders decide to approve the major subdivision application, which I submit to you is a grave mistake that we will come to regret, do not force the developer to incorporate the

Fisher House into its planned subdivision by insisting that vehicular access be through a right of way from Pilottown Road. If city leaders such as yourself truly believe that Lewes values its history, lineage, and the beauty and character of our community, you will do everything you can to protect treasures such as this home. Otherwise, we are simply Rehoboth, Dewey or Ocean City. Just another overrun seaside community that has lost its way.

Sincerely,
Dan Zachem
630 Pilot Town Road