

**Name:** Timothy Ritzert

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**Website:**

**Message:** Prior to this submission dated 02.28.20, I have expressed concerns and suggestions during a previous "public open comment period" provided for the Fisher's Cove project. It is my expectation that this submission made today will be taken into consideration in addition to my previous submissions as the MCC prepares to render a decision at its March Regular meeting.

In this public comment I am putting aside the issues I raised in my previous public comments and instead am raising an awareness of the historical significance of the Fisher's Paradise provenance. I am aware that the home, the structure itself, is recognized by its enrollment on the National Register of Historical Places and as such, certain protections are extended to the structure, but the land on which the home rests is not similarly protected.

My suggestion, my plea, today is an effort to draw attention to the context sensitive nature of the Fisher's Paradise homestead in total, and the contributing elements the land and vegetation provide to both the protected structure and the greater Lewes community.

The effect of the proposed access easement to be located parallel to the southeastern property line will cause serious degradation of the existing tree cover and historically appropriate shrubbery. The fact that the easement will have dual functionality, first providing ingress/egress for the purpose of site development and construction and after development is completed, walking and emergency vehicle access, is not only likely to threaten the structural integrity of the aged structure but seriously compromise the home's setting on the lot. This is not a tract home constructed on a former soybean field. It is the former home of a Lewes patriot who during his life made significant contributions to this community, the state of Delaware and to the success of the fledgling United States.

Fisher's Paradise, the property identified in land records as TP 335-4.14-103.00, is deserving of all considerations and protections that the council extends to similar historical properties found throughout the city. The remote location of Fisher's Paradise in relation to the defined historical district is no reason to diminish its cultural and historical significance. A reminder that the site of the original Dutch settlement is in closer proximity to this subject property than the property is to the designated historic district.

Historic properties that face the canal, formerly known as the Lewes Creek, form a string of pearls, that serve to enrich Lewes and the fabric of the community. Being an "outlier " from the historic district is not sufficient enough reason for similar protections to be denied Fisher's Paradise.

**From:** Doug Rock [<mailto:donotreply@wordpress.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, February 28, 2020 10:21 AM

**To:** Thomas West <[TWest@ci.lewes.de.us](mailto:TWest@ci.lewes.de.us)>

**Subject:** Fishers Cove Comment

**Name:** Doug Rock

**Email:** [dougrock1@mac.com](mailto:dougrock1@mac.com)

**Website:**

**Message:** As a property owner on Rodney Avenue I ask that the Mayor and City Council deny the Fisher's Cove major subdivision for the following reasons.

-Fishers Cove Major would be located in an environmentally sensitive flood plain, where 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.

-Fishers Cove Major 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 Major will require construction of a raised road around the wetlands that will divert storm surge to surrounding properties causing increased flooding.

Thank you,  
Doug Rock  
110 Rodney Avenue

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