

23854 Brant Circle, Lewes, DE - Pubusky/Taylor Docket #2021-P-W-0016

jnikolaus123@embarqmail.com <jnikolaus123@embarqmail.com>

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To: Molina, Julie (DNREC) <Julie.Molina@delaware.gov>

As property owners across the cove from the subject property, we share the challenge of navigating our boat during low tides. However, we do not have a pier and dock but rather a bulkhead and slip and therefore we in no way interfere with the waterway. We suggest that there is adequate water depth for the applicants if their proposed structure extends 10% of the waterbody and that it is not necessary to be granted an exception in order that their structure extend into the waterbody almost 20% as proposed. In addition, the proposed 6' X 40' floating dock is well beyond the size of the 25' Pontoon listed on the original application. The proposed structure would interfere with our navigation as we take a wide turn to enter our slip. It would also interfere with other boaters and kayakers who navigate the waterway. Another concern is the the disruption of the natural habitat of wildlife in the wetlands and natural beauty of the cove. The proposed dock and platforms clearly would not be proportionate and are out of character with other structures in the cove.

It is also our concern that the approval of the proposed structure with platforms would create a precedent. If approved as proposed, other property owners on the cove may likely immediately follow suit and make application with DNREC to build similar structures to gain water depth and create large docks and platforms. How would DNREC handle future similar applications if the current proposed structure is approved? We do not believe that it would be in the best interests of the community, the wildlife or natural beauty of the cove to see such structures built in the future.

We hope the application will be resubmitted in a manner that will address the many concerns raised by numerous local residents. We will look forward to receiving future updates.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments and concerns.

John and Beth Nikolaus

33685 Baylis Drive, Lewes, DE