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**To:** [Dianne Boisvert](#)  
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**Subject:** [Ext]RE: Fowles Storefront  
**Date:** June 06, 2021 2:15:53 PM

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To the Newburyport Planning Board:

The Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a meeting on June 8 at 7:00 PM to determine if the new tenant may demolish the Fowles facade and signage on State Street. The Fowles exterior embodies a charm that is unique. The store hails back to a time in Newburyport when many city folks could find magazines, newspapers, cards, food, cigars and other items. The townspeople would gather throughout the day for coffee and discuss current event including the High school sports teams, Red Sox, Celtics and Bruins. It was a true meeting place for all to enjoy. If the original front is removed from Fowles we lose a special opportunity to experience this historical structure.

We believe this situation calls for us all, as a community, to look at this in a different light and to restore Fowles to its former glory. Imagine tourists walking downtown and seeing the sign restored. It would be a draw to the downtown area. The colors look different depending on the day and time of year as illustrated in so many local artists' work. The restoration would give lower State Street that refreshing "pop."

The demolition of the front of Fowles sets a precedent to alter other historic buildings in the downtown area resulting in the loss of Newburyport's unique character and the resulting tourist traffic. This will cause loss of business for *all* the downtown merchants, not just the new Fowles tenant.

This is not the time to reverse fifty-year's efforts at preservation and restoration of the downtown area. The Chamber of Commerce and the CPA should fund the restoration of this unique Art Deco storefront.

(To attend the ZBA meeting please use this link to join the webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/283447793> or by telephone: Dial: +1 646 558 8656 Webinar ID: 283 447 793).

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