



## Notes

### Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

### Citizen's Cafe

#### DATE & TIME

February 15, 2024 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm

#### LOCATION

##### Option 1: In-person

Delaware Center for the Inland Bays office  
39375 Inlet Road  
Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971

##### Option 2: Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83174379002>

Meeting ID: 831 7437 9002

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One tap mobile

+16469313860, 83174379002# US

+19292056099, 83174379002# US (New York)

Dial by your location

Meeting ID: 831 7437 9002

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83174379002>

- Meeting called to order by: Claire Simmers

#### ATTENDEES

- CAC (9)

8 CAC members attending:

4 In-Person: Dennis Bartow, Amanda Pappas, Cheryl Rehrig, Claire Simmers

4 Zoom: Lee Bunting Gail Dubowe, Tia Ouyang, Ken Sigvardson

1 CAC perspective member: Mary Kunst

3 CAC not present: Stephen Gronski, Frank Piorko, Ken Silverstein

- Public (20): 9 In-Person & 11 Zoom

- Center staff (4)
- 2 In-Person: Lisa Swanger; Anna Fagan
- 2 Zoom: Meghan Noe Fellows; Christophe Tulou

Total Attendance: 32 (15 in person & 17 Zoom)

## AGENDA

*Topic: Reforestation*

6:00-6:10 pm — Welcome and Introductions

*Claire Simmers, CAC Chair*

6:10-6:40 pm — Center Storytelling

*Meghan Noe Fellows, CIB Director of Estuary Science & Restoration*

What Matters in Achieving Desired Forest Restoration Outcomes

- Important to know process
- Site selection; right tree for right place; be realistic discuss restorative continuum
- Discussed site specific designs
- Planting methodology – denser plantings make better forests – plantation rows are not natural; dense applied nucleation plantings (everything is better with this type of planting).
- Costs are a factor – conserved forest is cheapest; dense applied nucleation plantings next best according to Meghan's research

6:40-7:10 pm — Guest Storytelling

*Charlie Garlow, Rehoboth Beach Sunrise Rotary Club*

- 1.4 million Rotary club members in more than 48,000 clubs are bringing positive change to communities worldwide
- Important to have trees that benefit birds and bees/pollinators; trees are part of web of life. Encourage trees that are beneficial to birds and bees/pollinators
- Charlie is a climate activist; advocating for electric vehicles and clean energy sources as well as keeping and replanting of trees
- Rotary Club is increasingly stepping into environmental efforts  
Planting trees and importantly maintaining already planted sites

7:10-7:25 pm — Citizen's Input

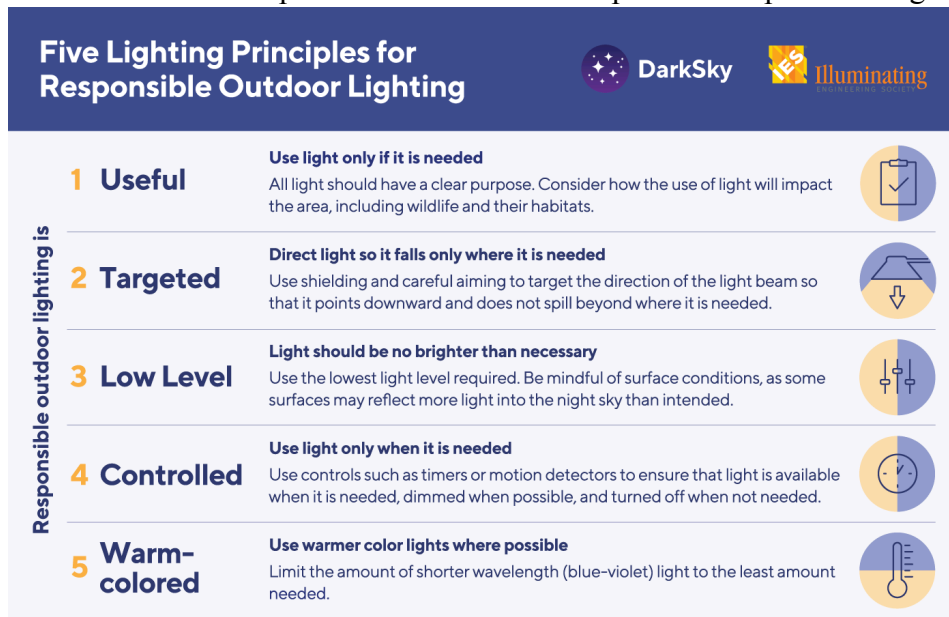
- Discussion of solar farms/arrays; ordinance being discussed in Sussex County Council about where solar farms/arrays can be built.
- Concept of master planning is important for looking at systems
- One of the attendees is getting an electric vehicle this weekend
- Indian Bay is important to several of the attendees

7:25-8:00 pm — CAC Discussion & CIB Updates

- Approval of CAC meeting minutes - October 26, 2023 – approved as distributed
- Mary Kunst CAC Membership Application – unanimous approval; forward to CIB executive committee for discussion and inclusion in CIB board agenda
- CAC Working Group updates
  1. Two working groups are merging for now
  2. Working on 2 tables at Family Water Fest and Native Plant Sale – May 4 at James Farm in coordinating with DNREC
    - Invasive Species (Ken Sil, Dennis, Gail, Amanda)
    - Water Quality with Lisa Swanger (Tia, Ken Sig, Stephen, Mary)
    - Cheryl will be representing the Garden Center
    - Master Gardeners' Open House is scheduled for June 22 – we would like to have the Invasive Species table there as well which we need to coordinate with them
    - Dennis is putting together a packet for HOA on Invasive Species
    - Richard's Independence Community newsletter on plantings to support pollinators
    - Mary – other communities with very successful pollinator gardens
    - Consider a survey of communities and what they are doing
- CAC open discussion
 

Input from the public via the website and emails

  1. Light Pollution especially from businesses on the water
    - a. Is there a decline in lightening bugs?
    - b. Some coastal – towns discussing dark sky provisions (Rehoboth Beach –
    - c. Important to discuss 5 Principles for Responsible Lighting:



<https://darksky.org/resources/guides-and-how-tos/lighting-principles/>

- d. Often Utility companies own the lights – should ask them about Responsible Outdoor Lighting

## 2. Bird shootings

- Reforestation effects
  - Tri-State Bird – is there a trend – follow up
  - DNREC Wildlife
- Shootings not uncommon in the news

## 3. EMF emissions and cables impacts on species of off-shore wind

- Christophe Tulou
  - Some concern with responses to off-shore wind not necessarily based in science and acknowledgement of the robust review process
  - The Center responded by forming a task force from the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) and responded with written comments to the BOEM Environmental Impact Study draft of the Offshore Wind project. Focused on the inland component of this project with cabling under the Indian River Bay to the existing power plant. STAC saw no concern from the electric magnetic fields to the bay based on the insulation. Did suggest that need to use updated models and science to better support decision to use the bay route or use land route.
  - Balancing needs and safety of the Inland Bays, especially Indian River with this project, with the need to build resiliency to climate changes especially affecting the Inland Bays.
  - Center's position is need to remove our dependence on fossil fuel as quickly as possible with best known science and robust review processes.

- Center Updates - Lisa Swanger, CIB Director of Outreach & Education

**UPCOMING EVENTS/PROGRAMS**

**JAMES FARM DOCENT** FEB 28

**MAR 6** FISH & BLUE CRAB SURVEY

**MAR 20** REFORESTATION SURVEY

**MAR 27** HORSESHOE CRAB SURVEY

**APR 10** DIAMONDBACK TERRAPIN SURVEY

**APR 24** INTRO TO VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

**MAY 8** DISCOVERY BAY

**MAY 22** INTRO TO VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

**2023-2024 WINTER LECTURE SERIES**

**GET HOOKED: Exploring Fishes in Delaware's Estuaries**

**FEBRUARY 22, 2024 | 5-7 PM**

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE HUGH S. SHARP CAMPUS  
1044 College Dr., Lewes, DE 19958  
Cannon Lab, Room 104

**DON'T CHUCK YOUR SHUCKS**

**DINE & DONATE**

**MARCH 11TH | 3PM-CLOSE**

**90% OF ALL SALES WILL BE DONATED TO THE DELAWARE CENTER FOR THE INLAND BAYS**

**DELAWARE 24**

**Delaware's Giving Day.**

**3/7 - 3/8 • 6 PM - 6 PM**

[DoMore24Delaware.org](http://DoMore24Delaware.org)

**Water Family & Native Plant Sale**

**2024**

**Save the Date 05 • 04 • 24**

## **2024 CAC Meeting Schedule:**

### **6:00 - 8:00 PM**

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Thursday, April 25, 2024

Thursday, August 22, 2024

Thursday, October 24, 2024