



## DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes- Draft

DATE & TIME: Thursday January 8, 2026 at 4 pm

LOCATION: *Center for the Inland Bays,  
39375 Inlet Rd  
Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971*

Remote: [Use google calendar link](#)

*Meeting called by: Jerry Esposito, Chair*

*Attendees: Jerry Esposito, Aimee Isaac, Patti Drago, Nicole Ashton, Gus Mergenthaler, Richard Mais, Christophe Tulou, Bryan Ochs, and Shannon Clark*

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### AGENDA ITEMS

Call to Order 4:01 pm

Meeting Review

Approval of Previous Minutes- J. Esposito moved for approval of the minutes and R. Mais seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business

2026 Events – Ongoing Planning

B. Ochs

B. Ochs indicated the highest priority upcoming event is the Greenscreen showing of a film, yet to be decided. Tasks include reaching out to the Freeman folks to find a contact from last year and connect with them about planning and permitting for the event. Possible permit costs for showing a film could be \$250-\$350.

C. Tulou discussed possible topics for the film to include Climate Resilience, Estuaries, Reforestation, Oyster Reefs, Living Shorelines, Marsh Migration.


Other upcoming events to focus on are Dine to Donate. Looking for Committee members to assist with reaching out to local restaurants.

Staffing- There are currently 3 active job postings for the Science/Research Department. The goal is to keep the number of active postings as low as possible so we can focus on one at a time. The next position most likely will be a Development Coordinator position per B. Ochs. In the next month, the team will focus on finalizing the job description for that position.

New Business

Development Reports

B. Ochs

-  December 2025 Development Report - (Presentation (169).pdf
- As of 1/8/2026 – \$11,671.55 towards annual appeal.

DRAFT

N. Ashton discussed assisting Meghan to market the “Mini-Forest” project. Meghan gave a presentation during last months’ Board meeting which received very positive feedback. Nicole is hoping to help gain attention by talking to some of her advertisers.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

NEXT MEETING:

Proposed for Thursday, February 12, 2026 / 4:00 PM

Adjourn 4:28 pm

*Statement of Purpose:* The Development Committee of the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays is a network of Board members, loyal donors, business and community leaders working to achieve the philanthropic goals of the Center through a collaborative effort with the Board and the Center’s staff.

The Delaware Center for the Inland Bays mission is to preserve, protect and restore Delaware’s Inland Bays and their watershed.