



DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: Thursday February 12, 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 Issac, Patti Drago, David Keil, Ken Sigvardson , Christophe Tulou, Bryan Ochs, Shannon Clark, Clare Magargal

AGENDA ITEMS

Call to Order 4:01pm

Meeting Review

Approval of Previous Minutes- D. Keil moved for approval of minutes; Ken seconded; motion carried.

Old Business

2026 Events – Ongoing Planning- See New Business notes below

- Staffing update- B. Ochs announced the hire of Ally Szabo, the new Restoration Technician who starts Feb. 16th. 3 other positions are still open: Science Technician, Environmental Educator and Development Coordinator. B. Ochs indicated confidence in hiring for the Development position within the next 4 weeks.

New Business

Development Reports

B. Ochs

- [January Development Report](#)

B. Ochs presented a fundraising report for January 2026. Overall donations were up about \$5,000 over January 2025.

Event Planning Updates

- Green Screen / Film Festival Planning Update
 - Green Screen- B. Ochs discussed a meeting with Signatures to secure the date of April 22, 2026 for the Green Screen event. \$24/person cost with a \$40 ticket was agreed upon by all members. This includes heavy appetizers, 1 drink ticket and a cash bar. Event will go from 6pm-9pm. Next steps are to secure beer/wine donations and finalize which film to present. All members were sent the full list of films to review. The top choice is "The Mini Forest" and possibly also "Beyond the Trees". There is

also a possibility of presenting a 5 minute film created by The Center's progress with current Mini-Forest projects. There will also be 3 panel members to discuss the films including the Center's own Meghan Noe Fellows. Still need final decision on film choice.

- DoMore24 Planning Update
 - Next steps include promoting and do we want to find a donor to match donations?
- Native Plant Sale Planning Update
 - Clare gave an update including a meeting with DNREC this coming Monday, secured food trucks including Grotto's Pizza and a Bluegrass Band.
- Decked Out
 - Decked Out- B. Ochs mentioned that Big Chill is eager to work with The Center again. Looking at dates in mid-September. Can donors sponsor specific events?

Public Comment

There was no public comment

NEXT MEETING:

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

Adjourn: 4:54pm

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.