

DNREC Public Hearing Held at Ruddertowne Feb. 8

About 60 people attended a Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) hearing at Ruddertowne on Friday, Feb. 8, 2013. Comments were particularly supportive of the 16 foot wide bay walk and public beach. Dewey Beach Enterprises (DBE) partners and their consultants were on hand to answer questions from the public and to make a presentation to the audience and the hearing officials. Four of the Commissioners spoke in support of the bay walk to be provided according to the MAR (Mutual Agreement and Release) signed by DBE with the Town of Dewey Beach in 2011.

Commissioner Anna Legates expressed concern that Dewey Beach Enterprises and the previous town council excluded a PLUS REVIEW (Preliminary Land Use Service) review from their negotiated settlement agreement. The PLUS process, coordinated by the Office of State Planning, provides advisory opinions from DNREC, DelDot, and applicable state agencies to promote responsible development for large proposed projects. With ongoing challenges of bayside flooding and sea level rise, Anna indicated a PLUS review would have been in the best interest of the town, the developer, and the public.

Additionally, some people still spoke in support of the pier and marina which were part of the initial application by DBE for the project. The hearing lasted about two hours and the public comments will all be part of the record. A decision on the application is expected any time in the next few weeks after a review of the entire record. For more information, go to:

<http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/Lists/Public%20Notices/DispForm.aspx?ID=1724&Source=http%3A%2F%2Fwww%2Ednrec%2Edelaware%2Egov%2FLists%2FPublic%2520Notices%2FAIItems%2Easpx&ContentTypeId=0x010034FD6D348B0CF04392485E93FC15AB3A>