



Darlene L. Heller, Director of Planning and Zoning
Tracy Samuelson, Assistant Director of Planning and Zoning
City of Bethlehem
10 E. Church Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018

April 29, 2022

Dear Ms. Heller and Ms. Samuelson,

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed development at 128 E. 3rd Street. Our recommendations are in support of Bethlehem City's Climate Action Plan (CAP), which aims to reduce our carbon footprint, increase sustainability and utilize alternative energy sources.

New construction projects provide opportunities to employ energy saving strategies that will lower energy costs and at the same time reduce pollution from traditional energy sources. Therefore, we strongly recommend that the developer utilize sustainable building materials and energy efficiency measures beyond the building code, such as passive solar design features, advanced lighting controls, high efficiency HVAC equipment, increased insulation and advanced air sealing techniques to reduce infiltration. A green roof would contribute to lessening the heat island effect, which is of great concern on the Southside of Bethlehem, especially as the climate continues to warm. Green roofs also help lower the heat inside the building and aid in stormwater management.

Furthermore, we encourage the developer to perform a solar assessment and evaluate the inclusion of solar panels or constructing the building with adequate structural rooftop capacity and electrical rough-ins so that solar could easily be added at a later date.

Landscaping and tree planting is important we recommend coordinating with the City Forester in the selection of native species. Increased greenery surrounding the building will also soften its impact and make it more inviting.

Another recommendation is the inclusion of "easily-accessible, secure, sheltered bicycle parking" as recommended in the CAP (Transportation Strategies T1.2 and T1.9). Secure indoor and outdoor bike parking facilities for residents, visitors and shoppers would be ideal, especially given the proximity to the Greenway.

Due to the height of the building, there could be a potential for bird impacts. We suggest that the design, location and lighting of the building be evaluated for potential collision risk. It is possible to purchase glass made specifically to reduce bird flight impacts and bird kills, known as bird friendly glass. The following links to brief educational videos, made in collaboration with Muhlenberg College, speak to this issue and how and how it can be addressed for this and future projects.

[Bird Safe Glass Explained: The Issue](#)

[Bird Safe Glass Explained: Solutions](#)

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lynn Rothman

Lynn Rothman, Chair

On behalf of the Bethlehem EAC:

Elizabeth Behrend, Vice Chair

Ben Guthrie, Secretary

Ben Felzer

Vibhor Kumar

Mike Topping

Katie Trembler

cc: Bethlehem City Council

Mayor J. William Reynolds