



November 4, 2022

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

Dear Ms. Heller and Mr. Peiffer,

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed development of 1559 Kelchner Road. 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.

Furthermore, we strongly recommend that the developer perform a solar assessment, and if feasible, include rooftop solar energy systems. At a minimum the homes could be constructed with adequate structural rooftop capacity and electrical rough-ins so that solar could easily be added at a later date. Note that there are currently tax credits for new solar energy systems.

It was brought to our attention that there is some issue with flooding at the corner of Pinehurst and Kelchner Roads. Stormwater controls (to be coordinated with the City Department of Public Works) should be designed so as not to increase flooding at this intersection and ideally reduce its impact.

It is our understanding that the developer agreed to preserve the back of the property as open space, preserve most of the trees and replace those that are dead. We commend

these actions and recommend coordinating with the City Forester in the selection of native, climate resistant tree species.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lynn Rothman

Lynn Rothman, Chair

On behalf of the Bethlehem EAC:

Ben Felzer, Vice Chair

Ben Guthrie, Secretary

Vibhur Kumar

Mandy Tolino

Mike Topping

Katie Trembler

cc: Bethlehem City Council

Mayor J. William Reynolds