



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 26, 2022

Dear Ms. Heller and Ms. Samuelson,

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed development at 2040 Avenue C. 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 concern, especially on the Southside of Bethlehem, as the climate continues to warm. Green roofs also help lower the heat inside the building, aid in stormwater management and would provide an educational opportunity for students.

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

Whenever possible, existing trees should be preserved or replaced. Landscaping should be incorporated in coordination with the City Forester in the selection of native species for both trees and shrubs.

Another recommendation is the inclusion of "easily-accessible, secure, sheltered bicycle parking" on the property, as recommended in the CAP (Transportation Strategies T1.2 and T1.9).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lynn Rothman

Lynn Rothman, Chair

On behalf of the Bethlehem EAC:

Elizabeth Behrend

Ben Felzer

Ben Guthrie

Vibhor Kumar

Mike Topping

Katie Trembler

cc: Bethlehem City Council

Mayor J. William Reynolds