



10 East Church Street  
Bethlehem, Pa. 18018  
[www.bethlehemeac.org](http://www.bethlehemeac.org)

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

March 18, 2022

Dear Ms. Heller and Ms. Samuelson,

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed development at 218-226 W. Union Blvd. 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 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 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.

Of special concern with this project is the proximity to the Monocacy creek. Green infrastructure to slow stormwater and filter pollutants should be included to the greatest extent possible. In addition to fencing, landscaping should be incorporated in coordination with the City Forester in the selection of native species for both trees and shrubs. Whenever possible, existing trees should be preserved or replaced elsewhere on the property in the city, as required.

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 on both lots for residents, visitors and shoppers would be ideal, especially since it can be difficult to store a bike in an apartment if there isn't dedicated space.

Due to the height of the building and what appear to be an abundance of large windows, we note the 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

Ben Felzer

Ben Guthrie

Vibhor Kumar

Mike Topping

Katie Trembler

cc: Bethlehem City Council

Mayor J. William Reynolds