



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

September 23, 2022

Dear Ms. Heller and Mr. Peiffer,

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed development at East Frankford and Pulaski Streets. 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.

On the plans under "Statement of Intent" it states that an eight-unit apartment building will be constructed, however, we have been advised that it is actually a four-unit building.

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 encourage the developer to 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. Note that there are currently tax credits for new solar systems.

Trees and landscaping are provide cooling, reduce stormwater runoff, improve air quality and sequester carbon. We recommend coordinating with the City Forester in the selection of native species for both street trees and landscaping.

We applaud the inclusion of bicycle spots since the inclusion of "easily-accessible, secure, sheltered bicycle parking" is recommended in the CAP (Transportation Strategies T1.2 and T1.9). Secure indoor and outdoor bike parking facilities for residents and visitors would be ideal, especially since it can be difficult to store a bike in an apartment if there isn't dedicated space. If possible, we recommend providing greater than two bicycle spots.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lynn Rothman

Lynn Rothman, Chair

On behalf of the Bethlehem EAC:

Ben Felzer, Vice Chair

Ben Guthrie, Secretary

Vibhor Kumar

Mandy Tolino

Mike Topping

Katie Trembler

cc: Bethlehem City Council

Mayor J. William Reynolds