



November 6, 2017

Dear Members of City Council,

In accordance with the Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council Bylaws, we submit the following report for the year 2017.

Accomplishments for 2017 include:

- February 2<sup>nd</sup> EAC meeting included a detailed presentation by Kristie Fach, Director of Ecological Restoration, Wildlands Conservancy, regarding the Monocacy Creek Restoration Project, as well as other projects the Wildlands Conservancy is undertaking;
- Letter of Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> supporting the proposed resolution to establish a Climate Change Working Group and offering our assistance;
- Letter of March 22<sup>nd</sup> endorsing an initiative led by the Lehigh Valley Sierra Club and the South Side Initiative of Lehigh University for a Pedestrian/Biking Bridge across the Lehigh River;
- Letter of April 7<sup>th</sup> urging the City to install recycling containers on both the North Side and South Side Main Streets;
- In May EAC members were invited to serve on the City's Climate Action Plan Working Group. Since that time we have given support to President Reynolds and Robert Vidoni, Assistant City Clerk, who have been working diligently on the structure of the planning process in order to bring the Climate Action Plan to fruition;
- Letter of June 8<sup>th</sup> inquiring as to the status of a baseline inventory of the natural landscape on the Martin Tower property, monthly discharge reports to the DEP and a request to review plans when they become available;
- July 6<sup>th</sup> EAC meeting hosted Rebecca Kennedy of Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) who spoke about the water cycle and green infrastructure. Attendees included a member of the Allentown EAC, Planning Director Darlene Heller, Michael Dorner of Bethlehem Public Works Dept., and City Councilman Michael Colón, among others;

Impact Center, and Breena Holland, Professor, Lehigh University, enlisting the EAC as partners in two Pecha Kucha events this fall. (A Pecha Kucha is a presentation format where presenters have exactly 6 minutes and 40 seconds to present 20 slides that discuss their project – a mini Ted Talk.) Attendees included President Reynolds, Tara Zrinski, Northampton County Council of Democratic Women and Julie Pineiro, Monocacy Creek Watershed Assoc., among others;

- Support to Bethlehem Backyards for Wildlife (BBFW), a most successful and hardworking subcommittee of the EAC whose mission is to work with the City of Bethlehem to support biodiversity and minimize negative environmental impacts by encouraging city residents, schools, businesses, and other organizations to implement wildlife friendly and sustainable garden practices;
- EAC member representation or participation in organizations related to the environment, such as Appalachian Mountain Club, Citizens Traffic Advisory Committee, Wildlands Conservancy, Saucon Creek Watershed Assoc., Monocacy Creek Watershed Assoc., Lehigh Valley Birdtown Coalition, ReNew Lehigh Valley, Northampton County Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, Pedestrian/Bike Bridge initiative, Sierra Club;
- Updates to the City website.

Our great appreciation goes to Louise Kelchner, City Clerk, for her support of the Bethlehem EAC. She responds immediately to all of our requests and questions, places meeting notices in the newspaper and facilitates communication between the EAC, City Council and the Mayor’s office.

We also thank Blake Kleintop for keeping the EAC information on the City’s website up to date.

We look forward to 2018 with a full complement of seven members.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lynn Rothman*

Lynn Rothman, Chair  
Bethlehem, EAC  
On behalf of the Bethlehem EAC

EAC Members:

John Brunner	Kalya Procyk
Jack Gambino	Lynn Rothman
Brian Hillard	Mike Topping

cc: Mayor Donchez