



Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

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June 23, 2023

Tad J. Miller, City Clerk
City of Bethlehem
10 East Church Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018

**RE: Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Environmental Education Centers
City of Bethlehem
Lehigh and Northampton Counties**

Dear Mr. Miller:

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) considered the subject application at its Comprehensive Planning Committee and Full Commission meetings, pursuant to the requirements of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC). The virtual meeting information is below:

- LVPC Comprehensive Planning Committee Meeting
 - June 20, 2023 at 12:00 PM
- LVPC Full Commission Meeting
 - June 22, 2023 at 7:00 PM

The subject application proposes to amend the City Zoning Ordinance by adding definitions for Community Recreation Center, Environmental Education Center and Nature Preserve, and allows Day Care Centers as an accessory use to Environmental Education Centers. This proposal supports numerous actions on *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*, including 'promote sustainable stewardship of natural lands' (of Policy 3.1), educate on the benefits of conservation and preservation (of Policy 3.1), educate on the importance of sustainable sewer, water and green infrastructure (of Policy 3.2) and educate on climate change impacts, adaptation and mitigation (of Policy 3.4). Additionally, the amendment aligns with actions and recommendations of the City's Climate Action Plan that support renewable energy, access to greenways and green spaces and urban farming and local gardens.

Municipalities, when considering ordinance amendments, should reasonably attempt to be consistent with *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*, as required by the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) [Article 1§105, Article III§303, §304 & §306(a), Article VI§603(j)]. Please send a copy of any final amendments that are adopted, per the requirements of the MPC. If you have any questions regarding the content of this letter, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Jillian Seitz
Senior Community Planner

CC: Darlene Heller, Planning and Zoning Director, City of Bethlehem