

“I don’t want [my house] to fall down”

The Bethlehem Gadfly Armory October 13, 2020

 *Latest in a series of posts on the Armory* 

ref: **Alarm at the Armory again**

ref: **“We are hoping that . . . our concerns will be taken seriously”**

As told you on Friday, construction began on the Armory Monday October 5 with severe pounding that alarmed the neighbors.

Three neighbors called in to the City Council meeting the very next night October 6 to report.

This Armory project has a long and contentious history. The neighbors were not against development of the site but against the kind of development and against what one neighbor called a “blank check” afforded the developers by the City in the form of over 10 variances.

Through it all, Gadfly was amazed at the (at least on the surface) equanimity of the neighbors in public discussions in which they were continually rebuffed. Under trying circumstances, they handled themselves like gentlefolk.

They continue to do so. That same equanimity was in evidence at Council last Tuesday night. How they do it, I don’t know.

Listen again to the pounding from the construction:

Audio Player not available in this archive

And the calm tone of one of the callers:

“I live in a house that is adjoining the construction . . . and it’s shaking because of the construction today . . . machines are pounding . . . I don’t know what you call them . . . they’re pounding a lot . . . making the houses tremble . . . I’m worried for the safety of my home . . . this land that my house is on . . . was a sand pit years ago . . . I don’t know how stable it is . . . and my house is very old . . . It was built around 1900 . . . I

don't want it to fall down . . . maybe there's some instability here that needs to be determined by the folks that are doing the building . . . you don't want to damage people's homes . . . you want to find out what's going on . . . something's happening . . . so I'm drawing it to your attention . . . of course you want to hear our voices . . . and not our lawyer's voices . . . so I'm happy to share with you that there's something wrong . . . Thank you very much . . . It's a beautiful evening here."



The affected houses are on top of the hill in the background. The pounding has been at the foot of the hill on the right.

The neighbors are asking for the City to regularly inspect the site, and the surrounding historic homes, which seems totally reasonable.

As of yesterday, they had heard from lower-level City staff but not the City bosses as they have requested.

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