

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## BOARD OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

NOVEMBER 17, 2020

The Board of Landscape Architects held a regular meeting via ZOOM Webinar on November 17, 2020 which was called to order by Chairman Mark Arigoni at 9:39 AM.

### Board Members Present:

Mark R. Arigoni	Chair, Landscape Architect
W. Phillips Barlow	Landscape Architect
Dominick Celtruda	Landscape Architect
Anne L. Penniman	Landscape Architect

### Board Members Not Present:

None

### Vacancy:

Three (Public Members)

### DCP Staff Present:

Robert M. Kuzmich, License & Applications Specialist  
Richard M. Hurlburt, Director, Occupational and Professional Licensing Division

### Others Present:

Philip Doyle, Landscape Architect

Note: The administrative functions of the Boards, Commissions, and Councils are carried out by the Department of Consumer Protection, Occupational and Professional Licensing Division, Richard M. Hurlburt, Director.

Agency Website: [www.ct.gov/dcp](http://www.ct.gov/dcp)

E-Mail: [dcp.occupationalprofessional@ct.gov](mailto:dcp.occupationalprofessional@ct.gov)

### 1. Review of minutes of the August 18, 2020 Board of Landscape Architects Meeting

The Board voted, unanimously, to approve the minutes of August 18, 2020 as written. (Arigoni/Celtruda)

## **2. Comments or Concerns of any Person Present Today**

See Agenda Item 5A.

## **3. DCP Investigation Division Complaint Status Report**

### **3A. Board to review complaint status report when provided.**

Mr. Kuzmich noted that he received an e-mail from the Department's Investigator stating that there are no new complaints to report and as such, she will not be attending today's meeting.

## **4. Old Business**

### **1. Continuation of discussion concerning the involvement of State Board's with their accredited university (UCONN) regarding outreach and understanding of the licensure process.**

Mr. Celtruda noted that he has nothing to report at this time and cited the difficulties students are dealing with at the University of Connecticut due to the COVID -19 National Pandemic. Mr. Arigoni stated that this Board may be able to connect with students virtually and can use his prepared presentation as a part of their outreach. Mr. Celtruda will attempt to coordinate a time with the students for next semester perhaps in January 2021 or February 2021. This item will be kept on the Board's agenda for their next meeting.

### **2. Continuation of discussion concerning inconsistencies between the statutes, regulations, and the applications relating to Landscape Architecture.**

The Board referred to a document given to them by Mr. Kuzmich prior to the meeting which highlights some discrepancies between the Statute and Regulation. The document also shows the application as worded at present. The application correctly follows the Statutes in terms of qualifications for licensure, however, the Regulation does not.

In response to a question from Mr. Celtruda, Mr. Arigoni believes that the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB) agrees with the Statutes and Application and this is the information they communicate to applicants. Mr. Celtruda noted that he is very concerned that CLARB is not notifying the Board of applicants who are applying to them by means of the alternate degree as detailed in the Statute. It was noted by the Board that they must approve all applicants prior to sitting for the examination and especially those with alternate degrees. Applicants applying for licensure through CLARB having already passed the examination with an alternate

degree puts the Board in a very difficult position having not first reviewed their educational background prior to admission to the examination.

The possibility of changing the application to reflect this requirement was discussed as a first step in addition to changing the regulation to match the statute. The issue before the Board is applicants passing the examination without an accredited degree and prior approval of the Board. A recent example of an applicant with this educational background and applying to this Board with a CLARB Council Record for licensure was cited by Mr. Arigoni and Mr. Celtruda.

Mr. Arigoni stated that CLARB must be contacted to find out specifically how they handle applicants with alternate education. The Board wants CLARB to flag all applicants without an accredited degree and send these applicants back to the Board with an explanation to them of the State's requirements.

The Board asked that the application be changed to reference that all applicants with an alternate educational background first contact the Board prior to applying to CLARB to take the examination. Ms. Penniman questioned how this mandate applies to candidates not yet licensed and are coming from another State to Connecticut with a CLARB Record already started and an alternate degree and who may or may not have passed the exam. Mr. Arigoni noted that the Board is asking for the ability to review the candidate's education prior to them coming back with prior examination grades

Mr. Arigoni suggested that the application be modified to read that all evidence pertaining to an applicant applying with an alternate degree must present all their work experience and education to the Board prior to admission to the examination. Mr. Arigoni also confirmed that he will follow up with CLARB and get an answer from them, in writing, regarding how they process applicants with an alternate degree.

## **5. New Business**

### **5A. Letter from Mr. Philip Doyle, PLA, dated October 22, 2020, concerning Restriction of Licensed Practice.**

During the Calendar Year 2020, Mr. Doyle had two Towns, Farmington and Windsor, require that erosion control plans his company prepared be re-submitted and stamped by a professional engineer because their Town Zoning Code required the seal of a professional engineer. After several discussions with Oliver Gaffney of CTASLA, Mr. Doyle decided to make a formal request of the Landscape Architects Board to address this matter. Mr., Doyle referred to a letter from 2015 written by former Board Landscape Architect Board Chairman Vincent McDermott which addresses this issue. In the past, both these Towns have not enforced their requirement for the Professional Engineer's seal. However, Mr. Doyle stated that recently these Towns have changed their position on this requirement.

Mr. Doyle believes the recent positions of these Towns represent restriction of trade and is hurting his company financially. Mr. Oliver Gaffney believes that this issue should go to the Attorney General's Office through the Board of Landscape Architects as a representative of the Landscape Architect Community as opposed to Mr. Doyle doing this personally.

Mr. Arigoni thanked Mr. Doyle for his letter and for bringing this matter before the Board. He noted that the Landscape Architect Board has addressed similar matters in the past. Mr. Arigoni noted that he believes that a complaint needs to be filed by the individual being affected by this issue. In addition, he also stated that the Board, through their Attorney General's (AG) Representative, can provide support to Mr. Doyle. Mr. Barlow supports Mr. Arigoni's suggestion and cited past advice from their AG who stated that a specific individual has to be harmed and a complaint has to come from that same individual. Mr. Celtruda asked if the Department of Consumer Protection's Investigative Division can investigate complaints concerning barriers to practice? He also questioned if Mr. Doyle can bring complaints to both the Department and the Attorney General's Office?

Mr. Celtruda stated that local Towns may be enforcing laws created many years ago that may be more restrictive than State Law. Mr. Barlow confirmed, based upon past information given to the Board by the Attorney General's Office, that State Law does take precedent over local Law. Ms. Penniman agrees that since this is a State Law then the State needs to support the Board on this matter.

Mr. Arigoni believes that Board's Attorney needs to be involved in this matter since this issue has been addressed by the Board in the past and has surfaced again. Mr. Kuzmich suggested that Mr. Arigoni e-mail the Board's Attorney from the Department. He will explain that the Board understands their role is not to process complaints, or file complaints. However, they feel the responsibility as the licensing Board of the State of Connecticut, to support the licensed Landscape Architects that pay for application, licensure, and corporate practice in this State. He will formally request assistance from the Department in addressing these continuous concerns that have been brought to the Board's attention on multiple occasions in the past.

In addition, Mr. Kuzmich recommended to Mr. Doyle that he file a formal complaint with Ms. Pamela Brown, Investigations Division Director, for review and action by her Division. In conclusion, the Board, again, thanked Mr. Doyle for bringing this matter to their attention.

#### 5B. Applications for licensing by written examination:

1. Application of Ms. Katalin Glasscock-Szabo for licensing by written examination; Ms. Glasscock-Szabo is applying with a CLARB Council Record (No. 60202) and has passed the Landscape Architect Registration Examination with the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards. Upon a thorough review, the Board

voted, unanimously, to approve Ms. Glasscock-Szabo for licensing in Connecticut as a Landscape Architect. (Penniman/Barlow)

There was general discussion by the Board regarding applications from individuals seeking their first license in the profession from Connecticut when they do not reside in the State. The Board wondered why their need for a license in Connecticut. Mr. Barlow believes the reason is because the Connecticut Board processes applications much faster and individuals can get their licenses much quicker and not because Connecticut's license standards are any less stringent.

5C. Updated list of applications processed for licenses subsequent to the February 18, 2020 meeting of the Board.

No.	Name	Method of Licensure	Approved Date
1559	Brody, Paul	Waiver of Exam; CLARB Council Record No. 47193; ME	August 18, 2020
1562	McMeeking, John S.	Waiver of Exam; CLARB Council Record No. 17045; MA	October 14, 2020
1563	Meeks, Bruce E.	Waiver of Exam; CLARB Council Record No. 41599; CA	October 19, 2020
1560	Lorberbaum, David M.	Waiver of Exam; CLARB Council Record No. 29113; AL	October 20, 2020

The Board acknowledged the Department's action on the above applications.

5D. Applications for Corporate Practice of Landscape Architecture

There are no new applications at this time.

5E. Applications for the Joint Practice of Landscape Architecture and

Architecture/  
Landscape Architecture/  
Professional Engineering/  
Land Surveying/

There are no new applications at this time.

**6. Correspondence**

No correspondence was discussed.

**7. Comments or Concerns of any Person Present Today**

1. Mr. Celtruda noted the need for the Board to fill their remaining vacancies. He also suggested that the Department continue virtual meetings, even after the pandemic, as this may be a selling point to those individuals considering applying for a Board position.

Mr. Barlow believes the issue is not that there are no applicants but rather the approval of these applicants by the State. Mr. Kuzmich will, again, check with the Department on the status of filling the Board remaining vacancies. Mr. Arigoni suggested the use of the Department's website as a means to fill the Board vacancies.

2. Mr. Kuzmich offered to notify Ms. Penniman and Mr. Celtruda by e-mail immediately after the ZOOM meeting notices are sent.

The meeting adjourned at 11:06 AM. (Arigoni/Celtruda) The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 9:30 AM; location to be determined.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert M. Kuzmich, R.A.  
Board Administrator

Upcoming Board of Landscape Architects Meeting Dates for 2021:

1. February 16, 2021
2. May 18, 2021
3. August 17, 2021
4. November 16, 2021

All meetings will take place at 450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT at 9:30 AM unless otherwise noted.