

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## BOARD OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

FEBRUARY 16, 2021

The Board of Landscape Architects held a regular meeting via ZOOM Webinar on February 16, 2021 which was called to order by Chairman Mark Arigoni at 9:36 AM.

### Board Members Present:

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

### Board Members Not Present:

W. Phillips Barlow	Landscape Architect
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Vacancy: Three (Public Members)

DCP Staff Present: Robert M. Kuzmich, License & Applications Specialist

Others Present: Pamela Brown, Director, Investigations Division

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 November 17, 2020 Board of Landscape Architects Meeting

The Board voted, unanimously, to approve the minutes of November 17, 2020 as written. (Arigoni/Celtruda)

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

There were no comments or concerns from anyone present at the meeting.

## **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. Ms. Pamela Brown confirmed this information to the Board noting that there are no new complaints to report. She also stated that she will rejoin the meeting, at any time, if needed.

## **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 is working on this matter but has nothing to report to the Board today. Mr. Arigoni stated that the Board may be able to take advantage of the ZOOM or TEAMS meeting platforms to assist with the Board's outreach. Mr. Arigoni does have a media presentation in Power Point format that can be used which is an introduction to the examination process from the CLARB which was used in the past at other Colleges and Universities. He will forward the link for this presentation to the Board after today's meeting. It was suggested that Mr. Celtruda can use this information as a part of his work on this matter.

### **2. Continuation of discussion regarding letter from Mr. Philip Doyle, PLA, dated October 22, 2020, concerning Restriction of Licensed Practice.**

Mr. Arigoni reported that he communicated with Ms. Cynthia Fernandez, Staff Attorney from the Department of Consumer Protection, by e-mail concerning this issue prior to today's meeting. Ms. Fernandez was not able to attend today. She stated, by e-mail, that her recommendation is to work with the Board to craft an informational e-mail to Building Officials about how to address Landscape Architect seals. She will also speak with Mr. Arigoni by telephone subsequent to today's meeting.

Mr. Arigoni noted that this proposed communication be very specific and detailed and not be a blanket e-mail that may be ignored. He wants to assure this notice goes to the appropriate officials such as Building Officials, Planning and Zoning, City Engineers, Town Planners, and other Civil Engineers as well as those individuals the Board knows

have not been accepting the Landscape Architect Seal. Ms. Penniman also suggested that this e-mail could also go to the Elected Officials such as Mayors and First Selectmen. Mr. Arigoni wants to be sure that Ms. Fernandez knows that this matter has come before the Board in the past and that any communication should be very specific.

## **5. New Business**

Mr. Kuzmich asked the Board to add the application of Mr. Jonathan D. Cave as a candidate for licensing by written examination. As such, the Board voted, unanimously, to add this individual to today's meeting agenda. (Arigoni/Penniman)

### **5A. Applications for licensing by written examination:**

1. Application of Mr. **Joseph Aveni** for licensing by written examination; Mr. Aveni is applying with a CLARB Council Record (No. 45942) 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 Mr. Aveni for licensing in Connecticut as a Landscape Architect. (Arigoni/Penniman)

2. Application of Mr. **Jonathan D. Cave** for licensing by written examination; Mr. Cave is applying with a CLARB Council Record (No. 61580) and has passed the Landscape Architect Registration Examination with the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards.

Mr. Celtruda noted that the applicant passed three examination sections in 2019 and his dates of employment are from 2018 to 2020 which means he sat for the exam before the required two years of supervision under a licensed landscape architect were completed. The Board discussed, in detail, whether or not the work experience can be accrued after a candidate first sits for the examination and the pros and cons of the same.

Mr. Celtruda questioned when the law first allowed candidates to sit for the examination prior to completing their work experience. He also believes that in the past, it was not the intent to allow candidates to take the examination before they had completed their work experience. The Board asked Mr. Kuzmich to research this and report back to the Board. Mr. Celtruda then found and cited the current statutory requirements, in Section 20-370, which requires that work experience must be completed prior to sitting for the examination.

Returning back to Mr. Cave's application, Mr. Celtruda believes that the Board should go on record stating that this application is being acted upon as a single case and should not set a precedent. Upon a thorough review, the Board voted, unanimously, to approve Mr. Cave for licensing in Connecticut as a Landscape Architect. (Arigoni/Celtruda) It was noted, as part of the Board's motion, that they reviewed this

application on an individual case basis with specific detail being paid attention to the applicant's work experience relative to when the examination was passed and his accredited degree.

The Board will continue to look at making clarifications on the application with regards to Statute versus Regulation concerning the accrual of work experience. The Board continued to discuss CLARB's involvement with the application process noting that the Board only sees the applications that have cleared CLARB's requirements and not those applications that have been denied or otherwise on hold for various reasons.

5B. Updated list of applications by Waiver of Examination processed for licenses subsequent to the November 17, 2020 meeting of the Board.

No.	Name	Method of Licensure	Approved Date
1561	Bunnell, Mark A.	Waiver of Exam; CLARB Council Record No. 63577; NY	October 29, 2020
1567	Huber, Tim A.	Waiver of Exam; CLARB Council Record No. 41066 IN	December 14, 2020
1568	Minarik, Terry F.	Waiver of Exam; CLARB Council Record No. 7312; MN	December 14, 2020

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

5C. Discussion concerning Applications to Reinstate Landscape Architect Licensees relative to the required Continuing Education (added by the Board at today's Meeting):

Mr. Arigoni cited two current applications the Department is reviewing; one license lapsed for 10 years and the other license approximately 3 years. Mr. Arigoni noted that he spoke with the Board members individually on this matter prior to today's meeting. The question the Board is addressing is how many CEU's (continuing education units) should be required when an applicant is reinstating his or her Landscape Architect license.

Mr. Arigoni noted that he believes that twenty-four (24) units at a minimum should be required for licenses lapsed two (2) years. After two years, Mr. Arigoni believes that forty-eight (48) units should be required. Beyond 48 units, it becomes very difficult to accrue. Mr. Celtruda agrees with Mr. Arigoni on the amount of CEU's and also believes that an explanation of why the individual allowed the license to lapse is also very important. Mr. Celtruda noted that reinstatement applications should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Ms. Penniman believes the Board cannot be too punishing on this matter and that the Board should consider the individual's situation and anything that may be happening in their personal life. She believes the Board should consider requiring an additional amount of hours for each year beyond the initial two years lapsed.

After extensive discussion regarding the applicant whose license has been lapsed for ten years, the Board will require 48 hours of continuing education.

## **6. Correspondence**

1. The Board discussed the the-mail from Mr. Phi Barlow, dated February 15, 2021, concerning a request from Mr. Allan Broadbent who is applying for licensure in Massachusetts and needs a Verification Form to be completed by Connecticut. Mr. Kuzmich informed the Board that he will address this request and complete the required documentation for Mr. Broadbent.

2. Mr. Arigoni, again, cited the e-mail he received from Ms. Cynthia Fernandez today and noted that he will speak with her subsequent to today's meeting concerning the restriction of licensed practice as discussed under Agenda Item 4(2).

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

There were no further comments or concerns from anyone present at the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM. (Arigoni/Penniman) The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Tuesday, May 18, 2021, 9:30 AM; location to be determined.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert M. Kuzmich, R.A.  
Board Administrator

## **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.