



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BOARD OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS
Tel. No. (860) 713-6135

September 21, 2015

RE: Preparation of Site Plans by Licensed Landscape Architects

To Whom It May Concern,

It has come to the Board of Landscape Architects attention that a number of municipalities do not allow licensed landscape architects to submit site development plans in support of applications for land use permits. Oftentimes this is due to the fact that local ordinances and codes were prepared many years ago and have not been updated to reflect current laws and regulations regarding the practice of landscape architecture as it is defined in the Connecticut General Statutes. Recognizing that this was a recurring problem, the Board issued a Declaratory Ruling in 2001 on whether municipal officials may require that site plans for land development projects be prepared only by licensed professional engineers.

In the May 8, 2001 decision, the Board ruled that municipal officials may not limit the scope of practice of landscape architecture as defined in the Connecticut General Statutes, Section 20-367(2) and in Section 20-368-1a(e) of the Regulations of the Connecticut State Agencies. In essence, licensed landscape architects may prepare site plans and other supportive documents for land development projects that are submitted to municipalities for approval, including without limitation overall site plans, site grading and incidental drainage plans, irrigation plans, planting plans, erosion and sedimentation control plans, construction details, and construction specifications.

The Board's ruling does not imply that the preparation of site plans is a right exclusive to landscape architects. It recognizes the rights prescribed by the General Statutes for the practice of other design disciplines (engineering, architecture, etc.) and the frequent collaboration of all these licensed professions in the preparation of project site plans. No one profession may be excluded from practicing their profession in favor of another profession. When collaboration occurs, municipal officials should require the plans to be signed and sealed by each professional involved in their preparation.

The Board of Landscape Architects requests that you review the requirements in your codes and ordinances for the preparation of site development plans and make the necessary revisions to allow landscape architects to perform the services that they are licensed to perform under the General Statutes and Regulations Connecticut State Agencies. Please feel free to contact the Board should you have questions regarding this matter.

Very truly yours,

Connecticut Board of Landscape Architects

Vincent C. McDermott, Chair

cc: State/Local Officials
Landscape Architects Board
Richard M. Hurlburt, Department of Consumer Protection
Robert M. Kuzmich, Department of Consumer Protection