

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
ARCHITECTURAL LICENSING BOARD

July 17, 2020

The six hundred ninetieth meeting of the Architectural Licensing Board, held on July 17, 2020, via ZOOM Webinar, was called to order by David Barkin at 9:00 AM.

Board Members

Present:	Laurann Asklof	Board Member, Public Member
	David H. Barkin	Board Member, Chairman, Architect
	Angela D. Cahill	Board Member, Architect
	Philip H. Cerrone	Board Member, Architect

Board Members

Not Present:	Twig Holland	Board Member, Public Member
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Vacancies: None

DCP Staff Present:

Richard M. Hurlburt	Director, Occupational and Professional Licensing Division
Robert M. Kuzmich, R.A.	License & Applications Specialist
Julianne Avallone	Director, Legal Division
Pamela Brown	Investigations Division Director
Jason Cohen	Commissioner's Office

Others Present:

Gina Calabro	AIA Connecticut
Manny Machado	AIA Connecticut

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

E-Mail: dcp.occupationalprofessional@ct.gov

1. Review of minutes of the May 1, 2020 Architectural Licensing Board Meeting

The Board voted, unanimously, to approve the May 1, 2020 minutes as written.
(Asklof/Cerrone)

2. Comments or Concerns of any Person Present Today

Mr. Hurlburt noted that there is a ZOOM chat question waiting to be answered. Ms. Cahill noted that she sent initiated the chat noting that it was a request from Mr. Machado asking for the call-in number.

3. DCP Investigation Division Complaint Status Report

Mr. Barkin noted he reviewed the report and gave the Board a brief overview noting that the report addresses what the Board has been asking for. He thanked the Department for their efforts. Both Ms. Asklof and Ms. Cahill agreed with Mr. Barkin.

Ms. Cahill questioned the length of time some the complaints have been opened. In addition, Mr. Barkin noted a requested follow-up from the Department on Complaints Nos. 2017-125 and 2017-78 from the last Board Meeting. Since Ms. Paulette Annon from the Legal Department was not able to attend today's meeting, these items will be carried over to the Board's next agenda for their meeting on September 18, 2020.

The Board thanked Ms. Brown and Ms. Hamel for their attendance at today's meeting.

4. Old Business

4A. Proposed changes to Connecticut Statutes Chapter 390, Architects – Penalties for failure to meet CE requirements

Continuation of discussion concerning licensed architects in Connecticut performing the work of Interior Designers; specifically, the logistics to be addressed by the Department relating to existing interior design certificates currently held by Connecticut licensed architects.

As an aside, the Board discussed the issue at hand and determined that the Department was going to investigate the proposal that all active Connecticut licensed architects will automatically be registered as Interior Designers. Ms. Calabro stated that she believed that this was to be legislation and a part of the DCP's Bills as confirmed to her in writing from Ms. Julianne Avallone from the Legal Department. Mr. Barkin asked that Mr. Kuzmich confirm what the status of this item is with the Department and have the minutes reflect the same.

Ms. Avallone confirmed that this item was a part of the Department's legislative package. She will be reviewing the Department's final submission in the near future and will confirm whether or not this item is a part of the same. She also noted that due to the COVID crisis, this and many other legislative items will not be addressed until the 2021 Session. It was confirmed that this proposal is a statutory change. She further explained the details of the approval process ahead.

Mr. Barkin also addressed the lapsed license requirements in terms of payment of back fees currently required. Mr. Kuzmich believes that there is now a maximum period of ten years for the collection of back fees as stated in the current regulation. Ms. Avallone confirmed that there is a ten-year maximum limit at present in the regulation.

Mr. Barkin asked that the previous motion made to approve the CE notification be amended to include this information concerning payment of back fees. It was confirmed that the notification also addresses the past due continuing education requirements. The Board voted, unanimously, to amend their motion made under Agenda Item 4B below to have Mr. Barkin revise the notification being sent to all licensees by the Department to include the changes made at today's meeting.

4B. Update of proposed changes to Connecticut Regulations 20-289, Architect Licensure – Continuing education and emeritus status

Mr. Barkin noted that he has been working together with Ms. Avallone on an e-mail notification to be sent to all licensed Connecticut architects and AIA/CT regarding the continuing education requirements. Mr. Barkin presented the Board today with a final draft of this notification.

There was discussion on the timeframe in which the licensee's have to complete the CE requirement. At present, the law states that CE credit will be earned during the calendar year starting 2021 from January through December. Mr. Cerrone noted that all other states have their CE accrual period the same as the architect license period and that Connecticut will be the only State with a different recording period. It was noted that the time period is the same as AIA/CT's CE accrual period. Ms. Calabro did not foresee a record keeping issue from AIA/CT's viewpoint concerning Connecticut's timeframe.

After some brief discussion, the Board voted unanimously, to approve the final draft of the CE notification as presented at today's meeting. (Cerrone/Cahill)

The Board requested that this Agenda Item be placed on the next Board Meeting Agenda as it pertains to Interior Designers and Interior Design only and not continuing education and emeritus status.

4C. Discussion Concerning Renewals of Corporate Practice Relative to Ownership Requirements.

In response to Mr. Barkin's request, Mr. Kuzmich gave the Board an overview of the Department's actions concerning the monitoring of corporate renewals. He noted that the Department has marked all non-complaint renewals as "active under review" in the database. These credentials are then reviewed on a case-by-case basis by him. Mr. Kuzmich has received ongoing e-mail communication from many corporate licensee holders concerning issues with the required stock ownership. Overall, it was noted that the communication has been very productive and that many of the ownership issues have been or will be resolved shortly.

In response to a question from Mr. Barkin, Mr. Kuzmich explained, in detail, how the Department monitors the corporate license renewals noting that it is a self-reporting type process. He uploads all correspondence with the licensees to their credentials in the Department's database. Overall, both the Department and Board are very pleased with this monitoring process.

Ms. Avallone stated that it is her understanding that the Department is not receiving documents from the Secretary of State as a part of these renewals and she will verify this. The licensee's attest to the accuracy of the information provided with their renewal. Ms. Avallone believes that there is not a mandatory upload of documentation on behalf of the license and she will further investigate this.

5. New Business

5A. Changing Regional Meetings to meet every other fall in conjunction with the ALA Forum instead of every fall.

Mr. Cerrone addressed the Board noting that the proposal to change this regional meeting schedule was an economic decision. He stated that although he personally has mixed feeling about this change, the association could do an informal call as is being done today. The Board needs to come to a consensus on this matter because at the next Fall meeting this October, the Board needs to vote regionally on it. As such, the Mr. Cerrone made a motion to change that the Board vote in favor of eliminating every other Fall Regional Meeting and only meet on the interim years. Mr. Barkin seconded the motion. After, brief discussion, the Board agreed, and the motion carried unanimously. It was noted that ALA is known as the Educators Forum.

5B. Application of Mr. Bryan Moore to sit for the Architectural Registration Examination per **Sec. 20-289-3a.(2) of the Regulations for Architect Licensure.**

It was noted that a Board Member is needed to step down to review this application. Mr. Barkin volunteered to do this. He will respond with his recommendations before the next meeting and this Agenda item will be carried over to the Board's next meeting in September. Mr. Kuzmich noted that the applicant has a Bachelor of Technology Degree.

5C. Use of electronic seals.

Mr. Barkin noted that the AIA/CT conducted a survey which concluded this past June relative to the use of electronic seals asking members who uses using electronic seals. Mr. Barkin stated that he believes that many jurisdictions accepting electronic seal are accepting plans that do not meet the legal requirements for digital signatures. With the help of AIA/CT, a working group will be established to help the industry conform to the law relative to electronic seals. This group hopes to inform both AIA members and the building inspection community as to what is acceptable.

In response to a request from Mr. Barkin for Board assistance, Ms. Cahill volunteered to join this group noting that she has limited experience in this area. Mr. Cerrone also volunteered his services if needed. The Board held general discussion on the history and use of this technology in this both in Connecticut and out-of-state as well. Ms. Calabro offered her services as a member of the CBOA to ask the organization to determine what municipalities accept, consider, or do not consider electronic seals.

5D. Board communications regarding recent regulatory and statutory changes to the architectural community.

The Board discussed this matter under agenda items at 4B and 4C.

5E. The following candidates have passed the *Architect Registration Examination* and are recommended by the Department of Consumer Protection for licensing as Architects in the State of Connecticut; the Board voted unanimously to approve the following individuals for licensing as architects in the State of Connecticut and offered their congratulations on achieving this professional milestone. (Barkin/Cerrone)

1. William C. Caple
2. Samuels Zeif

It is noted that the Board voted unanimously to add the following candidate to their agenda at today's meeting:

3. Makenzie Leukart

5F. Applications for licensing by waiver of examination; the following individuals were approved under Section 21a-8 of the General Statutes by the Department of Consumer Protection for licensing as architects in the State of Connecticut on the basis of waiver of examination with an NCARB Certificate Record or by Direct Endorsement; the Board acknowledged the applications listed below.

1	Abruzzo, Emily A.	Waiver of Examination; New York	(NCARB File No. 115886)
2	Baldwin, Ian	Waiver of Examination; Massachusetts	(NCARB File No. 119295)
3	Bristow, Jr., Robert A.	Waiver of Examination; Massachusetts	(NCARB File No. 72154)

future. She noted that this may account for the relatively low numbers (recently) of candidates being approved by the Board for initial licensing.

Mr. Barkin further elaborated noting that there have been testing capacity restrictions due to the COVID -19 pandemic. Many A.R.E candidate's testing appointments have been canceled relative to test type priorities. He stated that this issue is being addressed by NCARB.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 AM. (Cerrone) The next regular meeting of the Architectural Licensing Board is scheduled for Friday, September 18, 2020 at 9:00 AM; location to be determined.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert M. Kuzmich, R.A.
Board Administrator

Upcoming Architectural Licensing Board Meeting Dates:

1. September 18, 2020
2. November 6, 2020

All meetings will take place at 450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted.