

BOARD OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Tel. No. (860) 713-6145

May 14, 2007

State of Connecticut
Department of Consumer Protection
Occupational & Professional Licensing Division
165 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

The Board of Landscape Architects held a regular meeting on March 13, 2007, which was called to order by Chairman Vincent C. McDermott at 9:30 AM in Room No 121 of the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

Board Members Present:

Paul E. Courchaine	Board Member
Dickson F. DeMarche	Board Member
Vincent C. McDermott	Chairman
Shavaun Towers	Board Member
Stephen Wing	Board Member

Board Members Not Present:

Maureen B. Connolly	Public Member
Robert W. Hammersley	Board Member

Others Present:

Robert M. Kuzmich	Board Administrator/DCP
Steven J. Schwane	Administrative Hearings Attorney/DCP

Note: The administrative functions of this Board are carried out by the Department of Consumer Protection, Occupational and Professional Licensing Division. For information, call Richard M. Hurlburt, Director, at (860) 713-6135.

1.) Old Business

1A. Minutes of the December 12, 2006 meeting of the Board; for review and approval. *The Board voted, unanimously, to approve the minutes as submitted. (Courchaine/DeMarche).*

1B. Appearance before the Board by Ms. Vikki A. Reski concerning the audit of her continuing education contact hours for the time period August 1, 2004 through July 31, 2006. Mr. McDermott explained for Mr. Courchaine's benefit the review method of several CEU submissions done by e-mail amongst Board members for their review and in the interest of time saved. Among those reviewed was Ms. Reski's. The question addressed in Ms. Reski's submission is what is considered legitimate subject matter for continuing education. The Board's concern was the dominate number of credit given to horticultural society events and to some travel events. After their review of her initial submission, they gave her eight credits of learning units.

Ms. Reski has made an attempt to better understand what constitutes legitimate subject matter by consulting the Connecticut ASLA Chapter members. Her thoughts are that the CEU rules are too loose and that she could use this meeting with the Board today as an opportunity to give the chapters member's better guidance. She explained that she is a one person office and that the focus of her practice is residential and commercial work. She finds it difficult to find educational opportunities as opposed to some architectural offices and what they do for their employees. Ms. Reski noted that her practice relies very heavily on plant material. She elaborated on the credibility and worth of the Connecticut Horticultural Society's members and guest lecturers. She proceeded to read aloud printed descriptions of the Society's past lectures.

Mr. Wing stated that although he has not personally attended any horticultural society lectures, the Board turned to Mr. Rudy Favretti, a retired member of this Board whose has a noted practice in historical landscapes for his perspective on this subject matter. He (Mr. Favretti) noted that Horticultural Society's subject matter was very narrow in focus and directed towards interested amateurs rather than design professionals.

Mr. McDermott stated that many private associations throughout Connecticut offer continuing education courses and this Board is not denigrating their courses. He explained that the purpose of CEU's and the focus of this Board as well as all other Boards throughout the United States and Canada is public health, safety, and welfare. He explained this Board's goals in establishing the CEU Program highlighting its basis in flexibility and on subject matter from

CLARB's task analysis which is the fundamental core of the Landscape Architect Registration Examination. Horticulture is only a very small portion of this subject matter even though a significant body of landscape architecture work in the country may be directed towards residential work. Mr. McDermott said that the subject matter is not rigorous.

Mr. DeMarche stated that in his opinion the courses Ms. Reski took will make her a better landscape architect but the question is do they meet the criteria of this State Board. He offered an analogy based upon his own experiences first attending the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse and then the University of California at Berkley. He went from a very regimented program at New York to a completely different program in scope at Berkley. In retrospect over the course of his career in landscape architecture, he recognizes that he probably would not have graduated with a degree had he not taken the core courses at the New York State College of Forestry although the program at Berkley was very beneficial in its own right. Mr. DeMarche equated this scenario to the situation with Ms. Reski and the Board.

Mr. Courchaine stated from his perspective the Board needs to strengthen what they consider to be guidelines for continuing education credits and make that public. He noted that it is not right that the Board reject classes that people take when they have not given them appropriate enough guidance to say that this course doesn't meet the specific set of criteria.

Ms. Towers is sympathetic to Ms. Reski in that plant materials are some things that landscape architects care about however there is an issue of rigor. Having attended some horticultural society events, Ms. Towers stated that the issue of rigor is still there relative to their subject matter.

The Board concluded their discussions with Ms. Reski addressing her concerns of not wanting to travel too far to get continuing education credits noting that there is a lot of material for CEU out there in her area. They also reviewed the procedures for approval of self-guided study that she presented as a part of her CEU submission. Upon a more detailed review of her CEU submission, the Board granted Ms. Reski 10 continuing education credits leaving her 14 credits short.

To be consistent with Board policy and in the interest of fairness, the Board requires that Ms. Reski submit the balance of her CEU submission to Attorney Steve Schwane prior to the Board's June 12, 2007 regular meeting. The Board will then review this material as a part of that meeting agenda.

1C. Continuation of discussion of proposed changes to the Regulation for the practice of landscape architecture to incorporate the use of electronic seals from Mr. Steven J. Schwane and of other proposed changes as suggested by Board review. Mr. Demarche noted that the Board last discussed approaching the revisions both from the technical accuracy and ease of understanding by a layperson or average practitioner. Mr. McDermott noted that the Board needs outside technical assistance to verify the technical accuracy of the proposed revisions. Mr. Courchaine stated that the Department of Consumer Protection seek assistance from their Department of Information and Technology. Specifically, ask them to verify the legitimacy of the websites referenced by Florida laws pertaining to the electronic transmission of plans, specifications reports, and seals relative to use in our State's proposed revisions.

Both Mr. McDermott and Mr. Kuzmich will pursue more information about the nature of these website references and report back to the Board at their next meeting scheduled for June 12, 2007. As such, the Board postponed further discussion on this item until this time.

2.) New Business

2A. Application of Ms. Regina O'Brien for licensing by written examination; Ms. O'Brien is applying with a *CLARB Council Record (No.2617)* and has passed the *Landscape Architect Registration Examination with the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards.* ***Upon completion of a thorough review of her application, the Board voted unanimously to approve her application.***
(Towers/Wing)

2B. Update from Legal Department regarding any Board issues, including continuing education audits.

1. Mr. Schwane updated the Board regarding the status of the CEU Audits. The Department had a total of 15 people of which seven of these matters have been concluded. Six of the remaining people are currently pursuing continuing education credits. The two remaining people have responded to Department correspondence but the file has been temporarily misplaced. Mr. Schwane has requested duplicated copies of their correspondence.

Regarding Mr. Peter Miniutti, Mr. Schwane indicated that to date he has not submitted any continuing education credits and has generally been very unresponsive to Department correspondence regarding this matter. He did

indicate in writing at some point that he would be doing continuing education. It was assumed that, to date, has done nothing although Mr. Schwane will verify this once his file is recovered.

On the assumption, that this is the case, the Board discussed their next options regarding drafting a complaint against Mr. Miniutti and potential suspension of his license. Revocation of his license probably would not be an option. The Board members expressed extreme frustration with this licensee especially in light of the fact that he is an educator and teacher in the profession and should be an example of what a design professional is supposed to do. This licensee sets a poor example for his students.

After further discussion, the Board voted, unanimously, to proceed to a Formal Hearing in this matter if the Department can not reach an alternative resolution in no more than two (2) weeks time. (DeMarche/Courchaine).

2. Mr. McDermott updated the Board regarding Bill No. 1309 was heard in early March. No one opposed and Mr. McDermott was the only one there and testified in favor. It was noted that even though the Connecticut Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (CT/ASLA) introduced the bill, not one of their members was there to testify. Mr. McDermott believes that the Bill will be acted on and scheduled to move out of the General Law Committee today. He believes that the Bill will pass without the language concerning "Emeritus Status". It was noted that although the Department of Consumer Protection could not speak on this Bill because it was not a part of their package, they may have "weighed-in" so to speak behind the scenes.

3. Mr. Schwane updated the Board on the State Library Regulation changes stating that he has not seen them published yet although he has been asked by State Library personnel to provide some additional guidance in early January.

2C. Updated list of applications processed for licenses subsequent to the December 12, 2006 meeting of the Board. The Board acknowledged this list of licensees.

Name	Method of Licensure	Dept. Approval Date
Fernandez, Peter R.	Waiver of Exam; CLARB Council Certificate No. 1290; MD	January 9, 2007
Chiamulera, Eva I.	Waiver of Exam; CLARB Council Certificate No. 3375; MA	January 17, 2007
Laudati, Steven M.	Waiver of Exam; CLARB Council Certificate No. 4147; NJ	January 18, 2007
Hines, Blair C.	Waiver of Exam; CLARB Council Certificate No. 3053; MA	January 25, 2007

2D. "CHRO Reviews" CHRO CRITERIA PER SECTION 46a-80; none before the Board. It was noted that there are none before the Board today.

2E. Any correspondence and/or business received in the interim.

1. Mr. DeMarche updated the Board on the CLARB Spring Meeting that he and Mr. McDermott attended in Kansas City, Missouri. It was noted that the State of Massachusetts had an increase in the L.A.R.E passing rate and is complaining about it. The State of New Jersey has a title and practice act in legislation that looks like it may pass and they should know by early June 2007. The State of Maryland reduced their fees and is addressing overlapping practice issues. The State of New York is now requiring continuing education and their Board members are upset with by it because the program is administered by their Board of Regents. The program is extremely rigorous and uses pre-approved courses and vendors.

The State of New Hampshire is very close to implementing licensing as a result of their recently passed law. Regional Dues policy was discussed. CLARB will develop a written policy regarding Type I Dues to incorporate costs to include Board Administrators at Regional and National Meetings of CLARB.

2. Mr. DeMarche announced that he will be resigning from the Board noting that it has been a great experience for him and asked Mr. Kuzmich for the procedures on how to do this. He discussed the possible qualifications for his successor and suggested that Kristen Schwab, who is licensed and an educator, be considered as his successor. Mr. McDermott explained the resignation process to Mr. McDermott. The Board also briefly discussed the replacement process.

Mr. McDermott noted that the State owes Mr. DeMarche a dept of gratitude for his dedicated service to the State, this Board, and to CLARB. Mr. DeMarche will try to remain on the Board until his successor is chosen.

The meeting adjourned at 11:21 AM (Courchaine/Towers) The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Tuesday, June 12, 2007, 9:30 AM, Room 121, State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert M. Kuzmich, R.A.
Board Administrator

