

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BOARD OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

NOVEMBER 16, 2021

The Board of Landscape Architects held a regular meeting via ZOOM Webinar on November 16, 2021, which was called to order by Chairman Mark Arigoni at 9:32 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
Pamela Brown, Director, Investigations Division
Janita Hamel, Supervising Special Investigator, Investigations Division

Others Present: Rachel Meier, Examination Candidate

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

Agency Website: www.ct.gov/dcp

E-Mail: dcp.occupationalprofessional@ct.gov

1. Review of minutes of the August 17, 2021 Board of Landscape Architects Meeting

The Board voted, unanimously, to approve the minutes of August 17, 2021 as written. (Barlow/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.

Ms. Pamela Brown addressed the Board and introduced herself and Ms. Janita Hamel. Ms. Hamel noted that they did receive a complaint which is currently with the Legal Department for their determination as to the appropriate administrative action to be taken in this matter. Ms. Penniman inquired as to the nature of the complaint. Ms. Hamel noted that the allegations are noted on the report, again, stating that the Legal Department will determine the course of these allegations and whether further Board involvement will be necessary. Mr. Arigoni inquired as to how long it may take if the Board does need to be involved in this matter. Ms. Hamel and Ms. Brown explained the factors and processes involved in determining this time frame. It was explained to Mr. Arigoni, at his request, the process involved in the notification of party or parties involved in the complaint and the information presented to the Board if the complaint is closed.

Mr. Arigoni asked if either Ms. Hamel or Ms. Brown could provide any advice regarding the issue noted in Agenda Item 4B. concerning the restriction of landscape architecture practice by local and State Agencies. Ms. Brown suggested that Mr. Arigoni contact Ms. Leslie O'Brien, the Department's Legislative Manager, for her advice and possible legislative interaction. Ms. Brown will either contact Ms. O'Brien on behalf of the Board and/or get her contact information to them. In further discussion, it was suggested that the Board communicate with Ms. O'Brien, Mr. Raul Rodriguez, Attorney General's Office, and Mr. Darren Hobbs, Office of the State Building Official in their discussion on this matter.

Mr. Arigoni thanked Ms. Brown and Ms. Hamel, on behalf of the Board, for their efforts and attendance at this meeting.

4. Old Business

4A. 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 apologized to the Board for not yet acting on this item due to personal family issues which are taking up much of his time. He asked the Board for help on this Agenda Item. It was decided to contact the University of Connecticut through Mr. Barlow and his contact information there. He will reach out to the University personnel to set up a time(s) for a presentation by the Board. This item will be kept on the agenda under "Old Business".

4B. Continuation of discussion regarding letter from Mr. Philip Doyle, PLA, dated October 22, 2020, concerning Restriction of Licensed Practice and matter concerning Mr. Philip Barlow and the CT DOT.

Discussion regarding this Agenda Item took place under Agenda Item 3A. above. This item will be kept on the agenda under "Old Business" and reworded to reflect the larger issue raised by Mr. Doyle's letter.

4C. Continuation of discussion concerning the "Live" Attendance requirement for Landscape Architect Continuing Education relative to the COVID Pandemic.

The Board agreed to continue to waive this requirement and will, again, discuss this matter at their May 17, 2022 Board Meeting.

4D. Status of Public Member Board Appointments.

Mr. Kuzmich advised the Board that he has not received any information from the Department regarding new appointments to the Landscape Architect Board. Mr. Celtruda noted that there may be potential candidates according to the CTASLA. They are advocating to have these Board vacancies filled and one may have been potentially filled according to Mr. Celtruda. Mr. Barlow and Mr. Celtruda also emphasized the importance of keeping the pipeline filled for professional Board members should there be a need for such in the future.

The appeal of virtual Board meetings relative to attracting new members was discussed. Mr. Kuzmich has not heard anything official from the Department as to the future of continuing these types of meetings. Mr. Kuzmich will inquire and advise the Board of any new information. The Board is in favor of keeping this format going forward at least as an alternate meeting type.

It was determined that the Board needs to actively pursue Board appointments with the Department. Mr. Arigoni will contact the Department to be sure this issue does not go unaddressed.

5. New Business

5A. Applications for licensing by written examination:

1. Application of Shangyuan Li for licensing by written examination; Shangyuan Li is applying with a CLARB Council Record (No. 65097) 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 Shangyuan Li for licensing in Connecticut as a Landscape Architect. (Penniman/Barlow)

2. Application of Mr. Grant Losapio for licensing by written examination; Mr. Losapio is applying with a CLARB Council Record (No. 48855) 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. Losapio for licensing in Connecticut as a Landscape Architect. (Penniman/Barlow)

3. Application of Ms. Rachel Elizabeth Meier for licensing by written examination; Ms. Meier is applying with a CLARB Council Record (No. 66330) 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. Meier for licensing in Connecticut as a Landscape Architect. (Penniman/Barlow) Ms. Meier spoke to the Board and thanked them for their review of her application and to allow her to address the Board today.

4. Application of Ms. Melody Rose Stein for licensing by written examination; Ms. Stein is applying with a CLARB Council Record (No. 63373) 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. Stein for licensing in Connecticut as a Landscape Architect. (Penniman/Barlow)

5B. Updated list of applications by Waiver of Examination processed for licenses subsequent to the August 17, 2021 meeting of the Board. The Board acknowledged the Department’s action approving the below applications and thanked the Department for this update.

No.	Name	Method of Licensure	Approved Date
1590	Dodson, Michael	Waiver of Exam; CLARB Council Record No. 38789; MA	August 27, 2021
1594	Osterlof, Robert Joseph	Waiver of Exam; CLARB Council Record No. 43502; NY	October 19, 2021

5C. Applications for License for Corporate Practice of Landscape Architecture

Updated list of applications processed for licenses subsequent to the August 17, 2021 meeting of the Board. The Board acknowledged the Department’s action approving the below applications and thanked the Department for this update.

1. Chaplin Studio Landscape Architecture PLLC
1820 Avenue M Suite 1048
Brooklyn, New York 11230-5347

Personnel in responsible charge; James C. McBride; Lic. No. 1516

2. Harrison Design PC
3565 Piedmont Road NE Bldg. 1-700
Atlanta, Georgia 30305-8203

Personnel in responsible charge; Joseph L. Piscitelli; Lic. No. 1574

3. Land Canvas LLC
205 River Road
Madison, Connecticut 06443-3441

Personnel in responsible charge; Barbara A. Yaeger; Lic. No. 1241

4. Landscape Design Consulting PC
40 Shinar Mountain Road
Washington Depot, Connecticut 06794-1711

Personnel in responsible charge; Sean M. Walters; Lic. No. 1497

5. Richter & Cegan Inc.
8b Canal Court
Avon Park North
Avon, Connecticut 06001-3778

Personnel in responsible charge; Michael A. Cegan; Lic. No. 433

6. Correspondence

1. The Board addressed a letter dated November 5, 2021, from Mr. Oliver Gaffney, representing the Connecticut Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, concerning the corporate practice of landscape architecture. Mr. Arigoni responded to his letter prior to today's meeting.

At Mr. Arigoni's request, Mr. Kuzmich explained the corporate licensing requirements for the corporate practice of landscape architecture in Connecticut. The details of Mr. Gaffney's letter were discussed noting that it can be interpreted in more than one way. Mr. Arigoni will reply to Mr. Gaffney on behalf of the Board. He asked that Mr. Kuzmich forward to him the landscape architecture corporate licensing requirements to assist him in his response.

7. Comments or Concerns of any Person Present Today

1. Mr. Celtruda raised the issue, again, of the discrepancy between the regulation and the statute regarding when work experience is accrued relative to when the candidate takes the examination. The statute states the experience needs to be accrued prior to sitting for the exam and the regulation does not specify and is basically left up to interpretation. Mr. Arigoni noted that currently, CLARB considers Connecticut as not requiring the work experience to be accrued prior to taking the examination.

Mr. Arigoni stated that the Board has the ultimate authority to decide this issue however such a situation will put the Board in a very awkward position. The Board discussed getting a legal determination on how this requirement shall be met. Mr. Celtruda suggested an interpretation of the regulation since the statutes are definite in what they require.

Mr. Arigoni asked if the Board is asking if they are correct in allowing candidates to take the examination with work experience gained prior to taking the same. The Board agreed that this is what they are asking for a determination on. Mr. Kuzmich will pursue this question with the Department's Legal Division.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Tuesday, February 15, 2022, beginning at 9:30 AM. The meeting will be conducted via the ZOOM Platform.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert M. Kuzmich, Architect Emeritus
Licensing and Applications Specialist

Board of Landscape Architects Meeting Dates for 2021:

1. February 15, 2022 (via ZOOM)
2. May 17, 2022
3. August 16, 2022
4. November 15, 2022

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