

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## BOARD OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

FEBRUARY 15, 2022

The Board of Landscape Architects held a regular meeting via ZOOM Webinar on February 15, 2022, which was called to order by Chairman Mark Arigoni at 9:33 AM.

### Board Members Present:

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

### Board Members Not Present:

None

W. Phillips Barlow

Landscape Architect

### Vacancy:

Three (Public Members)

### DCP Staff Present:

Robert M. Kuzmich, License & Applications Specialist

### Others Present:

Raul Rodriguez, Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General

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](http://www.ct.gov/dcp)

E-Mail: [dcp.occupationalprofessional@ct.gov](mailto:dcp.occupationalprofessional@ct.gov)

### 1. Review of minutes of the November 16, 2021 Board of Landscape Architects Meeting

The Board voted, unanimously, to approve the minutes of November 16, 2021 as written. (Penniman/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.

The Report was distributed to the Board prior to today's meeting. There was no-one from the Investigations Division present and no discussion was held regarding the report.

## **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. Arigoni stated that Mr. Celtruda will reach out to Mr. Barlow for his assistance with this matter. The Presentation Program is ready, and a date is close to being set for a presentation by the Board at the University of Connecticut. The date looks like it may be at the end of March 2022. This item will be kept on the Board's Agenda going forward.

4B. Continuation of discussion regarding concerning the restriction of landscape architecture practice by Local and State Agencies.

Mr. Arigoni stated that the Board had a beneficial discussion with Ms. Pamela Brown, Investigations Director from the Department at their last meeting. Mr. Raul Rodriguez from the Attorney General's Office name was mentioned. It was noted that he was involved in a past complaint related to this issue brought forward by a Board Member. Ms. Leslie O'Brien, Communication Director from the Department, and Mr. Arigoni communicated by e-mail last week and copied Mr. Rodriguez on the same. The e-mail invited all to attend the meeting today. Mr. Rodriguez is present today.

The Board is looking for support from the Department and Mr. Rodriguez regarding this matter. A letter written by former Board Chairman Vincent McDermott addressing this issue was referenced and discussed. Mr. Rodriguez referenced previous communication with the Board from 2018 defining the Attorney General's role as Council to the Board and the limitations of the Board as to their actions in this matter. He agrees with the involvement of Ms. Leslie O'Brien since she can aid the Board along with the Department's Legal Staff in any Statutory/Regulatory changes that may need to be made.

Mr. Arigoni noted the Board wants to readdress this issue now and believes that direct communication/outreach with the appropriate municipalities may be the best method as opposed to making changes in the law. Ms. Penniman asked how outreach would be defined. She noted that any communication generated by the Board needs to be made more permanent and not just communicated to local individuals who may move on from their positions with the Town/City in the future.

Mr. Rodriguez referenced the Board Meeting minutes from their May 8, 2018, meeting stating that the Attorney General's Office recommended that complaints could be made by individuals who are having issues with the Town to the Department of Consumer Protection. Mr. Celtruda cited potential difficulty individuals may have in filing a complaint based upon their employment situation. He believes it may be better handled by outreach to the municipality defining the roles of design professionals. The overlap of the professions is where this problem is originating.

Ms. Penniman noted that a letter from the Department and the Board could be generated and distributed to all Landscape Architects and used by them when submitting projects to avoid any potential problems with the authority accepting work they are legally permitted to do. Mr. Arigoni agrees with this suggestion and is in favor of redrafting the previous letter written by Mr. McDermott. Ms. Penniman and Mr. Celtruda agree with this action.

Mr. Arigoni again noted his previous e-mail from last November 16, 2021, to Ms. O'Brien, Ms. Brown, and Mr. Rodriguez concerning this matter. He will follow up on this communication noting the Board's discussion today and potentially drafting a new letter and asking for recommendations on how the Board moves forward with this. It was recommended that this new letter be signed by an entity with higher authority than the Board to make the communication more effective. Mr. Rodriguez noted he believes the Board is moving in the right direction. Mr. Arigoni noted that he will keep Mr. Rodriguez copied on all further communications to keep him up to date on this matter.

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

Mr. Celtruda suggested that the Board continue the waiver of the "live" requirement until their next Regular Meeting. Ms. Penniman noted an example of a remote Continuing Education event she recently attended requiring frequent testing of the presented material as the event continued ensuring the participant's attention. She suggested the Board, going forward, possibly consider a combination of both type C.E. courses. After more discussion, the Board agreed to continue the waiver of the "live" requirement until their next regular Board Meeting while recognizing the potential to return to live events if conditions change.

#### 4D. Status of Public Member Board Appointments.

Mr. Kuzmich updated the Board and noted that the Department has new contact person for Board appointments replacing the former person who recently retired. Mr. Kuzmich will e-mail Mr. Arigoni the new contact information so that he can continue the Board's communication regarding the filling of the Public Member vacancies.

### **5. New Business**

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

1. Application of Sam R. Sabin for licensing by written examination; Mr. Sabin is applying with a CLARB Council Record (No. 45106) 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. Sabin for licensing in Connecticut as a Landscape Architect. (Penniman/Celtruda)

The Board voted to add the following candidate for licensing by written examination to their agenda. (Celtruda/Penniman):

2. Application of Leah Rachel Grossman for licensing by written examination; Ms. Grossman is applying with a CLARB Council Record (No. 62988) 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. Grossman for licensing in Connecticut as a Landscape Architect. (Penniman/Celtruda)

5B. Application of Ms. Jacquelyn Fortuna to sit for the Landscape Architect Registration Examination. Mr. Celtruda reviewed this application and noted his comments on her education earned in Australia. He believes she is qualified to sit for the examination. Upon a thorough review, the Board voted, unanimously, to approve Ms. Fortuna to sit for the Landscape Architect Registration Examination. (Penniman/Celtruda)

5C. Updated list of applications by Waiver of Examination processed for licenses subsequent to the November 16, 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
1598	Rasor, Mitchell	Waiver of Exam; CLARB Council Record No. 14976; ME	December 3, 2021
1597	Bone, Walter	Waiver of Exam; CLARB Council Record No. 404; TN	December 16, 2021
1599	Gutterman, Andrew J.	Waiver of Exam; CLARB Council Record No. 30479; MA	December 20, 2021

## 5D. Applications for License for Corporate Practice of Landscape Architecture

Updated list of applications processed for licenses subsequent to the November 16, 2021 meeting of the Board. The Board acknowledged the Department's action approving the below application and thanked the Department for this update.

1. Labella Associates, P.C.  
300 State Street  
Rochester, New York 14614-1020

Personnel in responsible charge; James A. Rymph; Lic. No. 1504

## 6. Correspondence

No new correspondence was discussed.

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

1. During the review of the Mr. Sam R Sabin's application for licensure at today's meeting, the Board noticed that the firm listed for the applicant's experience had a licensed Landscape Architect from 9/1/2010 through 7/31/2018. However, no listed licensed Landscape Architect from 8/1/2018 through 7/17/2019. The Board requested verification that *Dirk Sabin, Ltd* did not practice Landscape Architecture in Connecticut between 8/1/2018 through 7/17/2019 and if still practicing, is doing so with a licensed Landscape Architect in charge of Connecticut projects.

The Board believes that Mr. Dirk Sabin passed away in 2021 while in business with his son, Mr. Sam R Sabin; the applicant applying for licensure at today's meeting. The Board is seeking direction as to the procedure to verify these questions pertaining to *Dirk Sabin, Ltd.* or *Sabin Landscape Architects & Environmental Planners.* In addition, the Board is asking if these entities are practicing Landscape Architecture, and, if so, under who's license is this being done? Mr. Kuzmich asked Mr. Arigoni to summarize this issue to him by e-mail and, in turn, Mr. Kuzmich will forward the same to the Department's Investigation Division for further direction.

2. Mr. Celtruda noted the discrepancy between the Regulation versus the Statute concerning whether a candidate can sit for the examination prior to completing the work experience requirements. The Statute states that the work experience must be earned prior while the Regulation does not specifically state this requirement. Mr. Celtruda asked that, going forward, this matter be listed as a separate agenda item under Old Business. The Board is asking the Department for their direction on this issue.

3. Mr. Arigoni commented on the recent notification sent by the Department concerning continuing education reporting deadlines. Mr. Kuzmich noted the law recently changed the reporting date for continuing education hours from July 31, 2022, to April 30, 2022. In effect, the current reporting period of continuing education hours for Landscape Architects is August 1, 2020, through April 30, 2022. Going forward, while the Landscape Architect license period continues to be from August 1st to July 31st of the next year, the continuing education period will be from May 1<sup>st</sup> of the most recent even-numbered year through April 30th of the next even-numbered year and continue as such. This gives the Department time to reconcile the CE submissions to ensure they are in place before licenses are issued. The Department and the Board are in the process of determining the reporting system. When this is finalized, this information will be sent to the licensees.

It was also confirmed that the Board's Policy is that the Continuing Education requisite is waived for a licensee's first renewal where CE is due. This is consistent with other Boards and Professions in the Department and eliminates a prorating procedure.

The meeting adjourned at 10:21 AM. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17, 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 2022:

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.