

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## ARCHITECTURAL LICENSING BOARD

TEL. NO. (860) 713-6135

*-MINUTES-*

JULY 15, 2011

The six hundred and seventieth meeting of the Architectural Licensing Board, held on July 15, 2011, was called to order by Chairman S. Edward Jeter at 8:32 AM in Room No. 121 of the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

<b>Board Members Present:</b>	David H. Barkin Carole W. Briggs Robert B. Hurd S. Edward Jeter Pauline S. Morales	Board Member Board Member Board Member Chairman/ Board Member Board Member
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**Board Members Not Present:** None.

**Vacancy:** None

<b>Others Present:</b>	Robert M. Kuzmich Kevin McQueen James Coan Curtis Verdi Diane Harp Jones Bruce Spiewak	Department of Consumer Protection AIA/CT AIA/CT AIA/CT AIA/CT AIA/CT
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*Note: The administrative functions of the Boards, Commissions, and Councils are carried out by the Department of Consumer Protection, Occupational and Professional Licensing Division. For information, contact Richard M. Hurlburt, Director, at (860) 713-6135 or Fax (860)-706-1255.*

**Agency Website:** [www.ct.gov/dcp](http://www.ct.gov/dcp)

**Division E-Mail:** [occtrades@ct.gov](mailto:occtrades@ct.gov)

## **1. Old Business**

1A. Submission of the minutes of the May 20, 2011 Architectural Licensing Board Meeting; for review and approval. *After a thorough review, the Board voted, unanimously, to approve the minutes as submitted. (Briggs/Hurd)*

1B. Report from Mr. David H. Barkin regarding request from Mr. Ahmed Dadi for consideration to sit for the Architect Registration Examination. Mr. Barkin submitted a report the Board has before them today. It was noted that Mr. Barkin did not meet with Mr. Dadi beyond his initial presentation to the Board. Ms. Briggs questioned whether some of the questions noted in Mr. Barkin's written review would have been answered from an in-person meeting.

The Board would be comfortable if Mr. Barkin meet with Mr. Dadi in-person. Mr. Barkin agreed with their request and as such, *the Board voted to take no further action on this application until this meeting takes place and Mr. Barkin reports his findings back to the Board. (Hurd/Briggs)*

1C. Report from Mr. Robert B. Hurd concerning request from Mr. James B. DeStefano, P. E. to the Board for consideration to apply for an Architect license in Connecticut. Mr. Hurd highlighted his written report for the Board noting that Mr. DeStefano is licensed as an architect in New Jersey in April 2006. Mr. DeStefano does not meet the ten year requirement regarding examination as specified in Statute Section 20-291 therefore, he cannot get reciprocal licensure.

After more extensive narrative of Mr. DeStefano's educational and professional background, Mr. Hurd recommended to the Board that Mr. DeStefano be allowed to take the Architect Registration Examination. *The Board voted, unanimously, to allow Mr. DeStefano to sit for the Architect Registration Examination. (Briggs/Jeter).* It was noted that the Board is not exempting Mr. DeStefano from any sections, as did New Jersey, for the structural sections of the examination. Further, if there are any questions posed by NCARB from Mr. DeStefano's enrollment process, the application will come back before the Board for further discussion.

1D. Unbound NCARB Council Record for applicant Joseph Vilela, NCARB File No. 224373, for examination against State of Connecticut requirements for admission to the Architect Registration Examination as requested by the applicant; report from Mr. S Edward Jeter on his review of this application. Mr. Jeter summarized his extensive review of Mr. Vilela's file for the Board noting the candidate's both this professional and educational background.

After an extensive review of his application, the Board agreed that his application, as submitted, would be denied based upon a lack of sufficient credentials in the areas of education, training, and experience in architecture. The Board recommends that Mr. Vilela review the *NCARB Education Guidelines* to obtain an understanding of the

education levels required. If he chooses to have his formal education evaluated by *Education Evaluation Services for Architects (EESA-NAAB)*. This service is offered by the *National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB)* and evaluates the credentials of non-NAAB accredited education against the NCARB Education Standard.

With this report, the Board will then have a guideline as to what Mr. Vilela would need to show the Board as to how he has obtained the equivalent to the additional education required beyond his already completed school work. Should Mr. Vilela wish to follow this route, the Board would examine his presentation materials to ascertain if he has, in fact, completed his education.

*As such, the Board voted, unanimously, to postpone (table) Mr. Vilela's application for a Connecticut Architect License by Written Examination and inform the candidate that the Board cannot accept his application as presented. They would also recommend that Mr. Vilela pursue an EESA-NAAB Evaluation of his education credential. In turn, they would then ask Mr. Vilela to develop information to present to the Board on how his professional experience makes up for any lack of education he may have. (Hurd/Briggs)*

1E. Draft letter concerning "Use Of The Term Architect"; update from Mr. S. Edward Jeter on the status of this letter. Mr. Jeter presented the Board with a draft of his letter for their review and comment. Ms. Harp Jones noted that AIA/CT's purpose in asking the Board for this letter is to provide individuals who have legitimate misunderstandings guidance on the limitations on the use of this title. Ms. Briggs suggested that a preface or cover letter be added which provides an explanation of the term architect as understood by the Board and that this may help provide a better understanding of the restrictions and/or rights to use this term. Mr. Schwane suggested that this letter can come from the Trade Practices Division of the Department as a type of form to which the Board's letter can be attached to.

Mr. Jeter volunteered to make all the necessary revisions and bring this letter back before the Board at their September meeting. *As such, the Board voted, unanimously, to postpone further action on this matter, until their September regular meeting. (Briggs/Hurd)*

1F. Application of Ms. Fereshteh Bekhrad for license by Waiver of Examination by Direct Endorsement; report from Mr. David H. Barkin on his review of this application. Mr. Barkin reviewed the applicant's educational and professional background for the Board's benefit. Mr. Barkin noted that Ms. Bekhrad was permitted to take a 45 minute verbal examination which required her to bring in evidence of her work (3 projects) to present to a panel. From this interview, New York State granted her a New York State license to practice which is current through 10-31-11. She is now asking the Board for a license by Waiver of Examination.

Mr. Barkin detailed her professional work experience for the Board. From the description of her current employment, there is concern raised by Ms. Briggs that this candidate may be illegally advertising architectural services in Connecticut. Mr. Barkin stated that her qualifications make her eligible to take the examination as a Connecticut candidate. He does not believe the process by which she was granted a license in New York State is in no way equivalent to what Connecticut required at that time; the passing of the A.R.E.

Ms. Briggs is also concerned about an apparent twenty year gap in her employment history presented the Board and does not want to approve a candidate to take the examination who may be in violation of Connecticut law. Mr. Barkin questions the relevance of the apparent gap in her employment relative to taking the examination.

*After more extensive discussion, the Board voted, unanimously, to postpone further action on this application pending the results of an investigation into the candidate's extensive gap in employment to assure that that has been no violation in Connecticut law during this time. (Briggs/Hurd) It is noted that Mr. Barkin has abstained from the vote.*

## **2. New Business**

2A. Request from AIA/CT for discussion regarding challenges faced by Architects in Connecticut relative to Design-Build. AIA/CT Member Mr. Kevin McQueen is scheduled to address the Board. Mr. McQueen addressed the Board concerning his professional background and focused on his recent formation of a design-build firm with a partner in addition to his architectural practice which he runs simultaneously. Mr. McQueen noted his competition the design-build industry in Connecticut done without architects in Connecticut. He brings this to the Board attention to raise their awareness of this fact.

Mr. McQueen explained his diligent efforts along with that of his partner to establish a legitimate design build company that holds the best interest of their clients. They have found that this is not always the case with their competition. Mr. McQueen stated to the Board that because his company tries to do things the correct way, they seem to be placing themselves in an underdog position and wanted to make the Board aware of their frustrations.

The offering of Mr. McQueen's design-build services was discussed in terms of their legal formats in which they do so. Mr. Spiewak questioned the legality of how their company is offering to provide architectural services in light of the definition of an LLC in Connecticut Statutes. Ms. Briggs explained to Mr. McQueen that the subject of design-build has been on the Board's agenda for the past 16 plus years to their frustration. She further noted the difficulty this board has in getting legislative cooperation in getting their proposal taken up and past; some of which with far more urgency than that of design-build. Ms. Briggs elaborated on the Board's

understanding how design-build is addressed by this Board and their limitations therein. Mr. Hurd noted the Board's recent attempts to unsuccessfully take-up and pass some of their proposals in the legislature. He also noted the general lack of understanding by them of the technical aspects of the Board's proposals and the fact that there are no architect members in the same. Mr. Hurd noted that this Board needs help from the outside on many issues and concluded that design-build needs to be done as a joint venture.

2B. Request from AIA/CT for Mr. James Coan to address the Board concerning Electronic Seals and Signatures. Mr. Coan stated he is the director of architectural practice and building science at Centerbrook Architects in Essex, Connecticut and has been licensed for many years. Mr. Coan read aloud a prepared statement for the Board summarizing the presence of electronic seals and signatures in the industry at present.

Ms. Harp Jones asked the Board what their plans are with the Department's package regarding this issue. Ms. Briggs spoke on behalf of the Board noting their support for this subject. In light of the legislative timeframe for the upcoming year, Mr. Hurd moved to resubmit the Board's package from last year. The motion was seconded by Ms. Briggs and carried, unanimously. Mr. Hurd suggested that an outside entity such as AIA/CT could propose this legislation. In-turn, AIA/CT could then find a legislator who sits on the General Law Committee (on the majority side) to sponsor the bill. He also explained the difficulty encountered when Consumer Protection attempts to move legislation like this forward. It was also noted that industry support of this matter would be a great asset. Mr. Coan will get a copy of his presentation to Mr. Kuzmich for the record.

2C. 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 Connecticut. (Briggs/Barkin)

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|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Simon Aldridge   | 5. Stephen P. Melingonis |
| 2. Peter B. Cornell | 6. Jason E. Stabach      |
| 3. Todd J. Hassler  | 7. Lisa A. Tanno         |
| 4. Altin Haxhaj     |                          |

2D. Applications for licensing by waiver of examination; the following individuals are recommended 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 voted, unanimously, to approve the following individuals for licensing as architects in the State of Connecticut. (Briggs/Barkin)

1.	Bendinelli, Chris A.	Waiver of Examination; Ohio	(NCARB File No. 36287)
2.	Berardi, George	Waiver of Examination; Arizona	(NCARB File No. 24310)
3.	Callan, Daniel P.	Waiver of Examination; Washington	(NCARB File No. 80684)
4.	Carver, Alton	Waiver of Examination; Virginia	Direct
5.	Cozzarelli, Robert	Waiver of Examination; New Jersey	(NCARB File No. 47195)
6.	Dowell, Jonathan H.	Waiver of Examination; Florida	(NCARB File No. 131080)
7.	Fenniman, Thomas A.	Waiver of Examination; New York	(NCARB File No. 484613)
8.	Ginsberg, Mark E.	Waiver of Examination; New York	(NCARB File No. 56315)
9.	Giuliani, Christine C.	Waiver of Examination; New York	(NCARB File No. 89439)
10.	Hamroun, Leila	Waiver of Examination; Pennsylvania	(NCARB File No. 122228)
11.	Harabasz, Wojciech M.	Waiver of Examination; New York	Direct
12.	Huber, Lawrence L.	Waiver of Examination; Arizona	(NCARB File No. 90808)
13.	Josal, Lance K.	Waiver of Examination; Oregon	(NCARB File No. 32338)
14.	Kostelecky, Sheldon R.	Waiver of Examination; New York	(NCARB File No. 70942)
15.	Kubik, David	Waiver of Examination; New York	(NCARB File No. 96545)
16.	Lewis, David J.	Waiver of Examination; New York	(NCARB File No. 112518)
17.	Lewis, Kenneth A.	Waiver of Examination; New York	(NCARB File No. 101661)
18.	Ludlow, Barry M.	Waiver of Examination; New York	Direct
19.	Mamma, David L.	Waiver of Examination; New York	Direct
20.	Martin, Jr., Muscoe B.	Waiver of Examination; Pennsylvania	(NCARB File No. 83794)
21.	McCarthy, III, William N.	Waiver of Examination; Florida	(NCARB File No. 67038)
22.	Moger, Matthew	Waiver of Examination; Pennsylvania	(NCARB File No. 107454)
23.	Murphy, Jeffrey A.	Waiver of Examination; New Jersey	(NCARB File No. 57212)
24.	Papadatos, Vasilis	Waiver of Examination; California	(NCARB File No. 412233)
25.	Reed, Alan E.	Waiver of Examination; Virginia	(NCARB File No. 72311)
26.	Ryan, Kate	Waiver of Examination; New Jersey	(NCARB File No. 111519)
27.	Sendlewski, Martin F.	Waiver of Examination; New York	Direct
28.	Smart, Edwin E.	Waiver of Examination; Georgia	(NCARB File No. 124558)
29.	Tucker, Neil J.	Waiver of Examination; New York	Direct
30.	Wagner, Sean M.	Waiver of Examination; Pennsylvania	(NCARB File No. 70980)
31.	Yates, Jr., Glenn	Waiver of Examination; Virginia	(NCARB File No. 83399)

2E. Applications for the Corporate Practice of Architecture; the Department has reviewed and recommends for approval the following applications; *the Board voted, unanimously, to approve the following applications for the Corporate Practice of Architecture in Connecticut. (Briggs/Barkin)*

ARMM Architecture Associates, Inc.  
725 Kenilworth Avenue  
Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08002

Frank J. Moore, CEO  
Connecticut Lic. No. 10269

Cube 3 Studio, Inc.  
360 Merrimack Street  
Building 5, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Lawrence, Massachusetts 01843

Adam L. Wagner, CEO  
Connecticut Lic. No. 12261

2F. Report from Trade Practices Division regarding current status of complaints ; for the Board's use as requested. This information was distributed to the Board. The Board stated that they are not satisfied with this report in both form and content. They asked their Chairman to write a letter to the Director of Trade Practices Division expressing their concerns and what they want to see in this report.

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

1. Mr. Schwane reported to the Board the status of a past approved agreement the Board signed involving an architect and his requirement to attend 4 seminars at the department of Public Safety. He noted that the architect has fulfilled his requirement to attend.
2. Mr. Schwane stated that a case was assigned to Mr. Jeter at their last meeting which was determined to require no further action by this Board.
3. Mr. Schwane informed the Board of a Public Act which now allows a retired license status for licensees including architects.
4. Mr. Kuzmich noted that landscape architects now have a corporate practice act.

***The meeting adjourned at 10:08 AM. (Briggs/Hurd) The next regular meeting of the Architectural Licensing Board is scheduled for Friday, September 16, 2011 at 8:30 a.m.; State Office Building; Room 121; 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.***

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert M. Kuzmich, R.A.  
Board Administrator