

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## BOARD OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

TEL. NO. (860) 713-6135

*-MINUTES-*

JUNE 23, 2015

The Board of Landscape Architects held a regular meeting on June 23, 2015, which was held by telephone conference and called to order by Chairman Vincent McDermott at 9:35 AM in Room No 175 of the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

**Board Members Present (by telephone participation):**

Vincent C. McDermott	Chairman
W. Phillips Barlow	Board Member
Jeffrey P. Hutton	Board Member
Stephen Wing	Board Member

**Board Members Not Present:** None

**Vacancy:** Two (Public Members)  
One (Landscape Architect)

**Others Present:**

Robert M. Kuzmich	Department of Consumer Protection
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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)

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## **1. Review of minutes of the March 10, 2015 Board of Landscape Architects Meeting.**

The Board voted to approve the minutes as submitted. (Wing/Hutton)

## **2. Comments or Concerns of any Person Present Today.**

There were no additional comments from anyone present at this meeting.

## **3. Old Business**

3A. Reconsideration of Application of Ms. Karen E. Cowperthwaite for licensing by written examination; Ms. Cowperthwaite is applying with a *CLARB Council Record (No. 41886)* and has passed the *Landscape Architect Registration Examination with the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards*. The Board tabled this application at their December 9, 2014 Board Meeting pending demonstration of compliance with the mandatory two (2) years of diversified experience in Landscape Architecture under the direct supervision of a licensed landscape architect. Mr. McDermott noted that the Board when they reviewed this application initially, her CLARB Record indicated her employment less than four years of twenty hours per week which totaled less than the minimum two years as required. More recent data from her employer as reflected in her latest CLARB Record supplement shows that she now has the minimum required hours. As such, the Board voted unanimously to recommend to the Commissioner that she be licensed as a landscape architect in Connecticut. (Barlow/Wing)

## **4. New Business**

4A. Discussion concerning notice to Municipalities regarding the acceptance of work prepared by Landscape Architects. Mr. Barlow gave the Board his summary of this issue. He noted that his firm has worked with the City of Stamford in the past and on a recent site project, the Assistant Town Engineer told Mr. Barlow that his all company's drawings, except for the planting plan, must be stamped by a professional engineer. Despite an explanation from him that this practice violates State Statutes, he was told that this is the way that City of Stamford does it.

Mr. McDermott noted that this is not a new issue and has been addressed by this Board in the past. He cited work he is currently doing where this same issue had to be clarified to his clients. Mr. McDermott suggested that this concern should be addressed in writing through the Department's Commissioner in order for it to carry some weight. Some years ago, this Board sent written notice to municipal officials reminding these individuals of what landscape architects can do by virtue of their law. He also cited a

letter that this Board issued to the City of Norwalk regarding a similar issue that was approved by the former Commissioner. He believes that this type of letter is a safe and effective way to address this matter. Mr. McDermott asked Mr. Kuzmich to e-mail this letter to the Board for their review and to be used as a model letter to address the current situation. He wants to be sure the new Commissioner is aware of this situation since it may have some political ramifications.

The City of Norwalk letter will be redrafted by the Board for this particular situation. It was suggested that a meeting with the Commissioner is in order to review the matter in person with him. Further, the Board suggested that this letter be signed by him since this may be more effective in the resolution of this problem.

4B. Discussion concerning Senate Bill No. 158 - Public Act No. 15-104 - An Act Concerning Landscape Architect Licenses. Mr. McDermott does not know if the Governor has signed this Bill yet. The Bill was adapted by both houses effective upon passage and signature. Mr. McDermott summarized the Bill noting that it addresses the part of the prior which allowed an individual without a landscape architecture degree to take the examination if he or she had eight years' practical experience in landscape architectural work of a grade and character satisfactory to the State Board of Landscape Architects.

This new law instead requires these applicants to have at least a bachelor's degree in a discipline related to landscape architecture or in landscape architecture from an unaccredited college, if the board determines, with the Consumer Protection Commissioner's consent, that the curriculum is consistent with an accredited program. In addition, the law now requires four years' practical experience directly supervised by a licensed landscape architect.

Mr. McDermott believes this is a good Bill and noted that now the American Society of Landscape Architects - Connecticut Chapter (ASLA/CT) is also in agreement with this Bill. Mr. Hutton stated that he too favors this legislation noting that the examination is the bottom line that qualifies people with this type of experience.

Mr. McDermott stated that he asked Mr. Peter Huntsman, the Board's Council, for advice on whether this Board needs to rewrite their regulation to accommodate this change in the law. Mr. Huntsman's advice to Mr. McDermott was to hold off until the Board sees what comes forth from the passage of this new law. Mr. McDermott would expect to see a new application over the next several months. Mr. Hutton noted based upon his experience in teaching adjunct at the University of Connecticut, he sees students studying landscape architecture and related studies and they do not appear to have any inclination to follow any course(s) other than those necessary to get into business for themselves.

4C. Application of Mr. Peter J. Emerson for licensing by written examination; Mr. Emerson is applying with a CLARB Council Record (No. 38971) 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. Emerson for licensing in Connecticut as a Landscape Architect. (Barlow/Wing)

4D. Application of Ms. Michelle Lin-Luse for licensing by written examination; Ms. Lin-Luse is applying with a CLARB Council Record (No. 42515) 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. Lin-Luse for licensing in Connecticut as a Landscape Architect. (Barlow/Wing)

4E. Updated list of applications processed for licenses subsequent to the March 12, 2013 meeting of the Board. The Board acknowledged receipt of this list and thanked the Department for this update.

<b>NAME</b>	<b>METHOD OF LICENSURE</b>	<b>DEPT. APPR'D</b>
Szura, Michael	Waiver of Exam; CLARB Council Record No. 5191; Pennsylvania	April 20, 2015
Mrva, Matthew J.	Waiver of Exam; CLARB Council Record No. 44538; Massachusetts	April 29, 2015
Verel, Amy C.	Waiver of Exam; CLARB Council Record No. 39059; New York	May 26, 2015

4F. DCP Trade Practices Division Complaint Status Report; review of complaint report submitted by the DCP Trade Practices Division including open, closed, and dismissed cases. Mr. Kuzmich noted that he has not received a report from the Trade Practices Division. Further, no complaints have come to his attention.

4G. Any correspondence and/or business received in the interim.

1. Mr. Wing stated that there is a new person in the Governor’s Office who deals with Board appointments. Mr. McDermott has been in communication with this person whose name is Ms. Monika Lazauskas, Aide to the Governor’s General Council. He reminded the Board about their past and current efforts in getting their vacancies filled.

Ms. Lazauskas reviewed the process by which her office gets Board replacements for Mr. McDermott’s benefit. Her advice to him was to get applications into her office as soon as possible. She noted that as of present, she has no requests on her desk. Mr. Barlow noted that he knows of ASLA Members that are interested in being on the Board. Mr. McDermott cautioned Mr. Barlow that ASLA Members interested in being appointed should no longer be in leadership positions at ASLA once they become Board Members in order to avoid any potential conflicts.

Mr. McDermott will e-mail Ms. Lazauskas's contact information to Mr. Kuzmich for distribution by e-mail to the other Board Members.

**5. Comments or Concerns of any Person Present Today.**

There were no additional comments from anyone present at this meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:53 AM. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Tuesday, September 22, 2015, 9:30 AM, Room 117, State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.