

STATE BOARD OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS
Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2026

The meeting was called to order on at 9:32 am by Chairman Arigoni via Microsoft Teams.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mark R. Arigoni, Chairman	Landscape Architect
Dominick Celtruda	Landscape Architect
Janice Parker	Landscape Architect
Maureen Nicholson	Public Member

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Sigrun Gadwa	Public Member
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BOARD VACANCIES

(1) Public Members
(1) Landscape Architect

DCP MEMBERS PRESENT

Rachelle Hyburg	Board Coordinator
Marguerite Poisson	License and Application Supervisor
Janita Hamel	Supervising Special Investigator

PUBLIC PRESENT

Note: The administrative functions of the Boards, Commissions, and Councils are carried out by the Department of Consumer Protection. For information, contact Agency Website: www.ct.gov/dcp
Division E-Mail: dcp.boards.commissionsandhearings@ct.gov

1. Review of Meeting Minutes

- November 13, 2025, meeting minutes
 - Board Member Celtruda moved to approve the minutes. Board Member Parker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (Abst: Nicholson, not in attendance at the time of the motion)

2. Comments or Concerns of any Person Present Today

- Board Member Celtruda noted that he reached out to the ASLA committee to see if there are any members that are interested in filling Board positions.
- Board Member Celtruda also noted that there is a bill in committee that looks like it will dissolve the fees for licensure.

3. DCP Investigation Division Complaint Status Report

- Review of complaint status report
 - For the reporting cycle 11.01.2025 to 12.31.2025
 - Open: 2
 - Closed: 0

4. Old Business

- UCONN Landscape Architecture Visit
 - Future visit has not been set yet.

5. New Business

5A. Applications for licensing by written examination:

5B. Applications for licensing by waiver of examination:

<u>Credential Number</u>	<u>Contact Name</u>	<u>Method of Licensing</u>
LAR.0001757	MICHAEL DAVID TERRELL	EXAM WAIVER CLARB WA
LAR.0001752	JOSEPH POWELL	EXAM WAIVER CLARB GA
LAR.0001753	SOFYA GIMON	EXAM WAIVER CLARB MT
LAR.0001755	ROBERT ADAMS	EXAM WAIVER CLARB ME
LAR.0001756	TOM C E LEE	EXAM WAIVER CLARB RI
LAR.0001746	JOSEPH ADAM JAMES	EXAM WAIVER CLARB MA

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

1	GZA GEOENVIRONMENTAL INC 95 GLASTONBURY BLVD STE 3 GLASTONBURY, CT 06033-4456	ANJA RYAN DUFFY CT License No. 1198
2	HALEY WARD INC 80 OLD NEW MILFORD RD BROOKFIELD, CT 06804-2409	NICHOLAS YUSCHAK JR CT License No. 434

5D. Licensure Process and Statutory Requirements Discussion

- Chairman Arigoni opened the discussion by noting that the current statutory requirement for applicants to seek board approval before sitting for the exam creates procedural challenges. He questioned whether the board should consider steps to streamline regulations to remove this requirement, given that applicants often present with all three qualifications (education, experience, and exam) already met.
 - He suggested exploring whether the board should pursue regulatory or statutory modifications
- Board Member Celtruda commented that he is impartial in removing the exam-approval step but emphasized maintaining the two-year minimum experience requirement before granting licensure. He raised concerns about protecting health, safety, and welfare. Noting that loosening requirements could invite challenges or exploitation of alternative licensure paths. He also suggested considering:
 - Moving from annual to biennial license renewal to reduce administrative burden.
 - Monitoring the proposed Senate bill to eliminate licensure fees, which he views as a potential step toward deregulation.
 - Addressing municipal barriers to practice, where some towns do not recognize landscape architects for certain site design tasks despite state law.
- Board Member Nicholson agreed with maintaining the two-year experience requirement and suggested exploring a hybrid approach but expressed caution about removing safeguards for public protection.
- Board Member Parker voiced concern that eliminating the exam-approval step could undermine the seriousness of licensure. She stressed that the process should remain rigorous and that applicants must follow established protocols. Janice noted that younger candidates often lack real-world experience despite passing exams and warned against creating a dynamic where the board questions competency after exam passage.

- Board Member Celtruda reiterated the importance of minimum competency standards (education, exam, and experience) and raised questions about reciprocity:
 - Ensure that applicants from other states meet Connecticut’s two-year experience requirement. He suggested reviewing the waiver process for exam reciprocity to confirm compliance with Connecticut standards.

- Action Items / Clarifications Requested:
 - Determine whether the board should pursue statutory or regulatory changes to streamline the exam-approval process.
 - Seek guidance from DCP and the Attorney General’s office on:
 - Interpretation of current law and whether changes are advisable.
 - Feasibility of biennial license renewal.
 - Implications of the proposed bill eliminating licensure fees.
 - Clarify reciprocity procedures and confirm that out-of-state applicants meet Connecticut’s minimum experience requirements.
 - Explore options to address municipal non-recognition of landscape architects for certain design tasks.

- Next Steps:
 - DCP’s Rachelle Hyburg will forward discussion points to DCP staff on behalf of the Board and provide contact information for AG counsel (Rosemarie Weber).
 - The Board will revisit this topic at the next meeting after receiving feedback.

6. Correspondence

7. Comments or Concerns of any Person Present Today

- Board Member Parker shared a personal experience regarding continuing education requirements (CEUs). She explained that due to some internal changes, she failed to enter her CEUs into the system, even though she had completed them. She emphasized the seriousness of compliance with CEU requirements and acknowledged how easy it can be to overlook the administrative step despite having the credits.
 - She reiterated that rules must be followed and expressed her commitment to maintaining professional standards. She also highlighted that CEUs are widely available and accessible, and employers should ensure staff can meet these requirements without work-related barriers.

8. Adjournment

Chairman Arigoni moved to adjourn. Board Member Celtruda seconded. The meeting adjourned at 10:28 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Rachelle Hyburg
Board Coordinator

2026 Scheduled Meetings

May 19
August 18
November 16