

October 14, 2014

Dr. Haitham A. Hijazi, Director
Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement
9400 Peppercorn Place
Largo, Maryland 20774

Dear Dr. Hijazi:

I serve as Chair of the Maryland State Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects (the "Board"). The Board was recently asked by a licensed landscape architect, as well as by other interested parties, to look into the issue of submission of site plans by licensed landscape architects to Prince George's County Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement ("DPIE"). While the Board understands that DPIE and the licensee reached an acceptable resolution, the Board remains to be concerned regarding some of the requirements contained in certain DPIE documents as they relate to the ability of landscape architects to perform storm water management, road grade, and site development services.

The definition of practice of landscape architecture is set forth in § 9-101(j) of the Business Occupations and Professions Article, Ann. Code of Maryland:

"(1) "Practice landscape architecture" means:

(i) to provide any service or creative work in the analysis or design of land and natural resources that requires training and experience in the application of the biological, physical, mathematical, and social sciences; and

(ii) to perform design coordination of a project or portion of a project provided that the licensed landscape architect holds a current license issued by the Board and has adequate education and experience in, and understanding of, the project or portion of the project being coordinated.

(2) "Practice landscape architecture" includes:

(i) consultation, research, analysis, assessment, selection, and allocation of land and natural resources;

(ii) development of graphic, written, digital, and other appropriate criteria to govern the planning and design of land development and construction programs, including:

1. preparation, review, and analysis of master plans, site plans, and land development plans;

2. reconnaissance, planning, design, and preparation of construction documents;

3. construction, observation, administration, and project management;

4. preservation, restoration, conservation, reclamation, rehabilitation, and management of land and natural resources;

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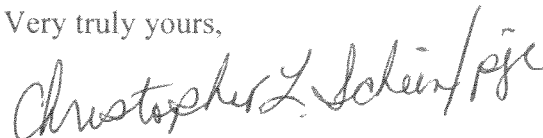
5. preparation of feasibility and site selection studies, environmental studies, and cost estimate reports; and
 6. design and analysis of grading and drainage, irrigation, erosion and sediment control systems, and pedestrian and vehicular circulation systems; and
- (iii) in conjunction with site plan preparation, the performance of the following:
1. determining a grade;
 2. determining drainage; and
 3. preparing and designing stormwater drainage systems provided that the preparation and design:
 - A. are in accordance with design manuals, details, and standards accepted by the State or local authorities; and
 - B. do not require a hydraulic or structural design of system components.”

In order to qualify for licensure as landscape architects, applicants must demonstrate a certain level of education and experience, and pass all parts of a rigorous licensing examination which consists of five sections and includes a section on Grading, Drainage and Stormwater Management.

The Board was given a copy of three DPIE documents: (1) Site Rough Grading Design Review Checklist; (2) Site Fine Grading Design Review Checklist; and (3) Site Development Concept Plan Application. The Board further understands that all three documents require signature and seal of only a Maryland professional engineer; yet the descriptions of services fall within the scopes of licenses of more than one design professions, namely landscape architects and surveyors.

The Board is well aware of the confusion that is often associated with the instances of overlapping practices, and all Maryland design boards are continually working toward an understanding of the extent and limits of various cross-scope activities. In addition, the chairs of the design boards created a framework to deal with some of the overlapping practice issues, which you can find on the Joint Chairs website at <http://www.dllr.maryland.gov/license/design/>. Finally, I will be more than happy to meet with you and answer personally any questions you might have regarding these issues.

Very truly yours,



Christopher L. Schein, Chair
State Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects