



STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR
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UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF LAND SURVEYING AND "TASK LISTS"

January 2005

TO: Municipal Planners, Building Officials, Municipal Engineers, and City/Town Clerks

The Rhode Island State Board of Registration for Professional Land Surveyors (Board) has been alerted that some municipalities may be unintentionally allowing the violation of state statutes relative to the practice of land surveying. These instances appear to be the result of confusion over a published "Task List" which other Boards may have distributed to the municipalities. This Bulletin has been prepared to provide you with accurate information regarding the practice of land surveying as authorized by the existing statute language.

CHAPTER 5-8.1 of R.I.G.L. defines land surveying as follows:

(11) "Practice of land surveying" means any service or work, the adequate performance of which involves the application of special knowledge of the principles of mathematics, the related physical and applied sciences and the relevant requirements of law for adequate evidence to perform the act of measuring and locating lines, angles, elevations, natural and manmade features in the air, on the surface of the earth, within underground workings, and on the beds of bodies of water for the purpose of determining areas and volumes, for the monumenting of property boundaries and for the platting and layout of lands and their subdivisions, including the topography, alignment, and grades of streets and for the preparation of maps, record plats, field note records and property descriptions that represent these surveys.

It is the Board's position that only a professional land surveyor is authorized to perform these activities and execute certifications as to their precision. Therefore, any document which purports an alternative interpretation of this statute (such as the "Task List") and which would allow other design professionals, such as Professional Engineers, to submit maps and plans which represent these elements is contrary to the law and illegal.

In several recent instances, the Board has successfully enforced this position by mandating the correction and re-recording of improperly approved and illegally recorded documents. Therefore, to ensure adherence to the law as well as prevent unnecessary complications with recorded instruments, we urge you to ensure that all maps, record plats, and property descriptions which contain the statutory elements of land surveying have been prepared by a professional land surveyor licensed and authorized to practice in the State of Rhode Island.

Should you have any questions regarding this advisement, please feel free to contact the Board at anytime.

Sincerely,

Alfred W. DiOrio, PLS
Chairman

State Board of Registration for Professional Land Surveyors