

Chatham County Appearance Commission  
May 25, 2016  
Meeting Minutes — S. Jacobs, Secretary

In attendance for the meeting were:

William “Bill” Causey, Chair  
Shelly Jacobs  
Dan Sundberg  
Davis Andrews  
Angela Birchett, planning staff

### **1st and only Presentation:**

**Robert Knapp, property owner and Taylor Blakely, Blakely Design Group for American Self Storage. Mt. Gilead Church Rd and US 64E for revision to CUP**

Plans submitted called for:

Removal of existing covered storage buildings, three (3) and replacement with two (2) bi-level, climate-controlled, metal panel buildings, similar in style and color to existing buildings on the property.

Existing chain-link fencing on the US64 side and Mt. Gilead Church Rd side of property is to be replaced with brick column and ornamental “wrought iron style” fence. Columns to be 30’ on center.

Signage is to be changed from existing ground level signs to one back-lit, building-mounted sign on each of the two new structures.

Plans call for additional planting to what is existing along the US64 and Mt. Gilead Church sides of property.

Commission members unanimously agreed that the signage, fencing, and all choices of plants and placement, shown in the plans were all good. There were no recommendations for changes.

One item of serious concern to the Commission members was the specification for a septic field that is to accommodate one toilet.

The plans show an area on the northwest corner of the property to be used for the septic field but show no specifics of what that field will look like after construction.

The property adjoins residential land on this side and therefore must maintain a Type A Buffer Zone. It appears that currently that may exist.

All committee members present were concerned that there was a strong possibility of “clear-cutting” of that area by the contractor during installation of said septic field, unless the owner and the plans\* clearly specified that there be **only careful and specific tree/ vegetation removal, keeping to an absolute minimum, the removal of trees and other existing plants for the accommodation the field lines.**

If the area is disturbed enough to not comply with Type A Buffer Zone specifications then it was agreed to by Mr. Knapp that there would be augmented planting. It was suggested and agreed to that Cedar trees were appropriate for use in this area.

\*NOTE: Plans were marked by Mr. Andrews to reflect the need to retain a Type A Buffer Zone as required by the Appearance Commission Guidelines. Mr. Blakely agreed to make the call for changes to the plans before submission to the planning board.