

### TOWN OF BLUFFTON BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS APPLICATION

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Applicant		(F	Property Owner	
Name: Court Atkins Architects,	Inc.	Name: Trever W	Name: Trever Wells	
Phone: 843-815-2557	ş	Phone: 912-313-1274		
Mailing Address: PO BOX 3978 Bluffton, SC 29910		Mailing Address:	Mailing Address: 1181 May River Road Bluffton, SC 29910	
E-mail: jason.broene@courtatkins.com		E-mail: treverwe	E-mail: treverwells@aol.com	
Town Business License # (if applicable): LIC-04-19-028962				
Project Information				
Project Name: Wells Mixed Use		Variance	Special Exception	
Project Location: 1181 May River Road		Administrative	Administrative Appeal	
Zoning District: R610 039 000 097A 0000		Acreage: 0.36 ac	Acreage: 0.36 acres	
Tax Map Number(s): R610 039 000 097A 0000				
<ul> <li>Project Description: A new 8,000 sqft 2-story mixed use building. Existing 12,000 sqft. building on the site is to remain.</li> <li>Request: The applicant acknowledges the 50' buffer on May River Road however, would request to locate the building on the site up on May River Road to be similar to the Stock Farm Development street-scape and buildings east along May River Road.</li> <li>Minimum Requirements for Submittal</li> <li>X 1. Two (2) paper copies and digital files of applicable plans and/or documents depicting the subject property.</li> <li>Recorded deed and plat showing proof of property ownership.</li> <li>3. Project Narrative describing reason for application and compliance with the criteria in Article 3 of the UDO.</li> <li>An Application Review Fee as determined by the Town of Bluffton Master Fee Schedule. Checks made payable to the Town of Bluffton.</li> </ul>				
Note: A Pre-Application Meeting is required prior to Application submittal.				
Disclaimer: The Town of Bluffton assumes no legal or financial liability to the applicant or any third party whatsoever by approving the plans associated with this permit.				
I hereby acknowledge by my signature below that the foregoing application is complete and accurate and that I am the owner of the subject property. As applicable, I authorize the subject property to be posted and inspected.				
Property Owner Signature:			Date:      8  2 Y	
Applicant Signature:	$\sim$		Date: 11/18/24	
For Office Use				
Application Number:		1	Date Received:	
Received By:			Date Approved:	



### **BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS NARRATIVE**

1181 May River Road Bluffton, SC 29910

DATE: November 26, 2024

The applicant Trevor Wells requests a zoning variance for 1181 May River Road / Tax ID# R610 039 000 097A 0000, from Section 5.3.7.B.2b of the Unified Development Ordinance, to allow encroachment into the 50-foot vegetative buffer along SC HWY 46 (May River Road). The proposed lot is a medium mixed-use lot within the Neighborhood Core Zoning District which allows a 10' front setback. Due to site constraints, the applicant proposes a reduction of the buffer from 50' to 15'.

- The 15' setback / buffer is consistent with the adjacent properties to the Southeast (Stock Farm) and to the east at 1199 May River Road; 1203 May River Road and within the Historic District. Currently, there is no existing vegetative buffer at the front of the property.
- The reduced buffer encourages redevelopment and provides a transition from no buffers within the Historic District to 50' buffers along the scenic May River Road corridor. The Town of Bluffton streetscape (sidewalks, streetlights, landscape) has been designed to accommodate buildings fronting the streets and encourages sidewalk connectivity to the street versus parking lots adjacent to the scenic highway.

23 Promenade St., Suite 201 Bluffton, SC 29910 Tel: 843.757.7411 The following is the supporting documentation from Article 3 of the UDO.

#### <u>1. Section 3.7.3.A. The application must comply with applicable requirements in the Applications</u> <u>Manual.</u>

**Applicant Response:** 

The application has been submitted to Town Staff, per requirements of the Applications Manual.

#### <u>2. Section 3.7.3.B.1. Unnecessary Hardship. A Variance from a dimensional or design standard may be</u> <u>granted by the Board of Zoning Appeals in an individual case of unnecessary hardship upon a finding</u> <u>that all of the following standards are met.</u>

# <u>A. Section 3.7.3.B.1.a. There are extraordinary and exceptional conditions pertaining to the particular piece of property</u>

#### Applicant Response:

The lot has an existing metal building and when the 50' required buffer is applied; along with walkways and access from the building; the property is not suitable for commercial development consistent with the May River Road Corridor and current zoning. The applicant proposes redevelopment of the site to be more consistent with adjacent properties recently developed.

#### <u>B. Section 3.7.3.B.1.c. Because of these conditions, the application of the Ordinance to the</u> particular piece of property would effectively prohibit or unreasonably restrict the utilization of the property in a manner consistent with others in the zoning district.

Applicant Response:

With the 50' buffer the maximum building depth is limited to  $\pm$ 30'. Based on this minimal development area, any type of commercial development is restricted.

# <u>C. Section 3.7.3.B.1.d. The need for the Variance is not the result of the Applicant's own actions.</u>

Applicant Response:

The current zoning was in place when the applicant purchased the property and is not a result of the applicant's actions. There is also no vegetative buffer at the front of the property currently.

#### <u>D. Section 3.7.3.B.1.e. The authorization of a Variance does not substantially conflict with the</u> <u>Comprehensive Plan and the purposes of this Ordinance.</u>

#### Applicant Response:

Per the Town of Bluffton: 'The Neighborhood Core zoning district is purposed to have moderateintensity, mixed-use development and the Future Land Use Map envisions this area for Mixed-Use which describes future uses in the following manner: A variety of complementing and integrated uses such as, but not limited to: residential, offices, light/unobtrusive/small scale manufacturing and assembly, retail, public use/facilities, or entertainment in a compact urban form.'

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The requested variance does not create a substantial departure from the goals and purposes of the Zoning District or Comprehensive Plan because the proposed density and uses are like what is described above.

#### <u>E. Section 3.7.3.B.1.f. The authorization of a Variance will not result in a substantial detriment</u> to adjacent property or the public good, and the character of the District will not be harmed by the granting of the Variance.

Applicant Response:

The proposed plan will be consistent with the character of Old Town Bluffton and provide more effective use of space and aesthetic along the Hwy 46 Streetscape. The reduced buffer provides a transition from the Historic district to the 50' buffer along the scenic May River Road corridor. The adjacent properties do not have a 50' buffer.

<u>F. Section 3.7.3.B.1.g. The reason for the Variance is more than simply for convenience or to allow the property to be utilized more profitably.</u>

Applicant Response: The property will be limited in development by only allowing a 30' building depth.

Please feel free to contact our office if you need additional information or have questions.

Sincerely,

Driel P. Keefer.

Dan Keefer 843-757-7411 Dan@wjkltd.com

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