

EXHIBIT

16

Gartley & Dorsky
ENGINEERING & SURVEYING

May 16, 2019

Erik Heim
President, Nordic Aquafarms
Via email @: erik.heim@nordicaquafarms.com

RE: Ownership of Intertidal Zone in front of Eckrote Property
Northport Avenue, Belfast, Maine

Dear Mr. Heim:

I am writing this letter to you at the request of David Kallin, Esq. of Drummond Woodsum. The purpose of this letter is to address a conclusion made by another surveyor, Donald R. Richards, PLS of Richards, Cranston & Chapman, LLC, in a letter to David Losee, Esq. dated April 30, 2019 that the intertidal zone in front of the Eckrote property is owned by Jeffrey R. Mabee and Judith B. Grace. I disagree with Mr. Richards' conclusion.

The property in Belfast along the shore of Penobscot Bay from the Little River northerly for more than 1,600 feet (this would end more than four current-day parcels northerly of the Eckrote property) was owned in 1946 by Harriet L. Hartley.

The first parcel that Hartley conveyed along this shoreline included the shore frontage now owned by the Eckrotes (Tax Map 29, Lot 36) and Lyndon G. Morgan (Tax Map 29, Lot 35) and was described in a deed to Fred R. Poor dated January 25, 1946 and recorded in Book 452, Page 205 of the Waldo County Registry of Deeds. Mr. Richards interprets this deed as severing the intertidal zone or flats from the upland. Mr. Richards concludes that Hartley retained the flats in front of the upland she conveyed to Poor.

The series of conveyances thereafter, do not support the conclusion that the intertidal zone would convey to the predecessors in interest of Mabee/Grace. The second parcel that Hartley conveyed along this shoreline included the shore frontage now owned by Helmers (Tax Map 29, Lot 34), Kent (Tax Map 29, Lot 33), Giles (Tax Map 29, Lot 32) and a small amount beyond Giles northerly line. This second parcel was described in a deed to Sam M. Cassida dated October 25, 1946 and recorded in Book 438, Page 497 of the Waldo County Registry of Deeds. This deed from Hartley to Cassida clearly conveyed the flats with the upland by stating "*Also conveying whatever right, title or interest I may have in and to the land between high and low water marks of Penobscot Bay in front of the above described lot*". This conveyance created a boundary line across the flats between the flats northerly of this line that were conveyed to Cassida and the flats southerly of this line that Hartley would have still owned in front of Poor (now Eckrote and Morgan) and southerly to the Little River.

The third parcel that Hartley conveyed along this shoreline included the shore frontage now owned by Theye (Tax Map 29, Lot 37) and Mabee/Grace (Tax Map 29, Lot 38). This third parcel was described in a deed to William P. Butler and Pauline H. Butler dated September 22, 1950 and recorded in Book 474, Page 387 of the Waldo County Registry of Deeds. This deed from Hartley to the Butlers described the land being conveyed as “*Northerly by land of Fred R. Poor; easterly by Penobscot Bay; southerly by Little River and westerly by the Atlantic Highway, so-called*”. Mr. Richards concluded that this description “*necessarily includes the shore and the flats in front of the Eckrote property and northerly to the extent of the Fred R. Poor tract*”. I disagree. The call to be bounded by Penobscot Bay does cause the conveyance to include the flats with the upland. However, I believe that the northerly limit of the flats that were conveyed to the Butlers should be determined by applying what is known as the Colonial Method, which would create another boundary line across the flats, as happened in the Cassida deed. The westerly or landward end of this boundary line is at the common corner between the land conveyed to Poor and the land conveyed to the Butlers at the high water mark. This would be a boundary line between flats owned by the Butlers to the south and land retained by Hartley to the north.

The description in the deed to the Butlers is what is sometimes referred to as an “abutters description”. It is not a “metes and bounds” description that would include measurements around the property. In an abutters description the boundaries are described by calling for the adjoining property owners or monuments around the perimeter of the property being described. If Harriet Hartley had intended to convey to the Butlers the flats in front of the land she had conveyed to Fred R. Poor, the abutters description would have also stated *Northerly by land of Sam M. Cassida* since Cassida was a northerly abutter to Hartley’s remaining flats.

It is common for deeds conveying land along the shore, even when the language in the description clearly includes the flats, to not specify what portion of the flats is being conveyed. When the description fails to clearly describe the boundaries of the flats being conveyed, Maine courts have long held that the method for determining those limits, or the direction of the property line from high to low water, is the Colonial Method.¹ Since the abutters description from Hartley to the Butlers does not call for Cassida as a northerly abutter, it reads like a deed describing the upland portion being conveyed along with a call to the Bay, which would include the flats in front of that upland, but that does not clearly describe the limits of the flats being conveyed. Again, this is a common method of describing shorefront properties without defining the direction of the property line being created across the flats.

Ernest J. and Marjorie N. Bell, successors in title to the Butlers, conveyed what is now the Theye property to John and Catherine Grady in 1964 (Book 621, Page 288) without the flats. The Bells then conveyed their remaining property to Willis C. and Virginia K. Trainor in 1966 (Book 652, Page 116) by using the same abutters description that had been used in the Hartley to Butler deed and then excepted what they had conveyed to the Gradys in 1964. This same language has been carried forward to the deed to Jeffrey R. Mabee and Judith B. Grace (Book 1221, Page 347) resulting in Mabee and Grace owning the flats in front of their upland property and the flats in front of the Theye’s upland property.

¹ Emerson v. Taylor, 9 Me. 42 (1832); Portsmouth Harbor, Land & Hotel Co. v. Swift, 82 A. 542, 109 Me. 17

I should also point out that, separate from a record title issue, the Eckrotes may have an adverse possession claim to the intertidal zone in front of their property. I have been told, but have not independently verified, that one the Eckrotes is a grandchild of Frederick Poor. It appears that the Eckrote property has been in the same family since the conveyance from Harriet Hartley. There is a plaque on the house near the shore that says "The Eckrote House, Est. 1949" suggesting the age of the house. There are two sets of steps leading to the shore from the upland near the house. One set is a combination of stone and wood. The other is a set of stone steps. Both sets of steps appear to have been there a long time. Your legal counsel will be able to help you review this information along with their own research to help determine the status of the actual ownership of the intertidal zone in front of the Eckrote property.

Sincerely,
Gartley & Dorsky Engineering & Surveying, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James A. Dorsky". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James A. Dorsky, PLS
Senior Vice President

Cc: David M. Kallin, Esq.
Drummond Woodsum