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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Dukes, ss. Land Court

Misc. Case No. 287677

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JACK FRUCHTMAN, JR. and JOANN FRUCHTMAN,

Plaintiffs,

VS.

MARIA A. KITRAS and JAMES J. DECOULOS, as they are trustees of GORDA REALTY TRUST,

Defendants.

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DEPOSITION OF JEFFREY L. MADISON, a witness called on behalf of the Plaintiffs, taken pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Massachusetts Rules of Civil Procedure before Cynthia A. Powers, Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public in and for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, at the law offices of Rackemann, Sawyer & Brewster, One Financial Center, Boston, Massachusetts, on Wednesday, May 28, 2003, commencing at 10:01 a.m.

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		Page 2
1	APPEARANCES:	
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	Representing the Plaintiffs	
5	DECOULOS & COMPANY James J. Decoulos	
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8	Appearing Pro Se	
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- 1 1996.
- Q. Did you go away to school in that
- 3 period from when you were born?
- 4 A. Yes, from 1966 to 1969.
- 5 Q. Can you tell us about what Aquinnah
- 6 was like, characteristics of the land, while you
- 7 were growing up, say, from your earliest memories
- 8 until 1966?
- 9 A. Oh, yeah. It was very rural place
- 10 where people lived their life and pretty much made
- 11 their living either from shell fishing, you know,
- 12 or fin fishing and serving the summer residents
- 13 who vacationed in Gay Head.
- It was, you know, just it was a
- 15 family place, you know. I mean, everybody was for
- 16 the most part friendly and helped each other out.
- 17 And I guess my earliest memories
- 18 are, you know, of not having electricity or a
- 19 telephone or anything. Our house was like the
- 20 first house in Gay Head to have both and, you
- 21 know, and a television. So, it was, it was way --
- 22 it's like a world apart from any other place that
- 23 I knew even on Martha's Vineyard.
- Q. What year did you get electricity

- 1 or telephone?
- A. 1951, I think. I only know that
- 3 because my mother gave me this picture that was in
- 4 the New Bedford Standard Times of me sitting on my
- 5 grandfather's knee turning on a light bulb.
- 6 Q. As a child did you, and as you were
- 7 growing up, did you explore the land of Aquinnah?
- A. Yeah, that's all there was to do.
- 9 There was no recreational facilities there. There
- 10 was a one-room schoolhouse. After school and
- 11 during the summer we would run all over Gay Head,
- 12 you know, up and down the cliffs and down to
- 13 Moshup -- Moshup Trail wasn't there, so it was
- 14 Zachs Cliffs, and all over the place.
- 15 Q. You remember when Moshup Trail was
- 16 built?
- 17 A. Absolutely, yes.
- 18 O. You mentioned that Zachs Cliffs was
- 19 a road that people used before Moshup Trail was
- 20 built?
- 21 A. It was an old overgrown path down
- 22 to the beach that people used to use and, you
- 23 know, it was even hard to find when I was growing
- 24 up there, but, yeah, you could see it, go through

- 1 the bar ways down to what was known as the
- 2 Hornblower property and Squibnocket Pond and Zachs
- 3 Cliffs.
- 4 Q. Did you ever see anyone drive down
- 5 it?
- 6 A. I never saw anyone drive down
- 7 there; it was just too overgrown.
- 8 O. Who was responsible for Moshup
- 9 Trail being built?
- 10 A. I think the way that that went was
- 11 that the Town of Gay Head and the county, Dukes
- 12 County, together funded the construction, and I'm
- 13 sure the state pitched in there with some revenue
- 14 as well.
- 15 Q. And why did the town, the county,
- 16 and the state decide to build Moshup Trail?
- 17 A. It's a good question. I was really
- 18 young, I was certainly in grade school, and I
- 19 remember riding the trucks from White Brothers
- 20 Construction in the summer months when we were
- 21 building that road. And I think that people were
- 22 just then -- it was in the mid fifties, maybe
- 23 around '56, '57, somewhere around there, and I
- 24 think that people were recognizing the, that those

- 1 beach properties had some value, and they were
- 2 trying to take advantage of the value that those
- 3 set-off lots had down there.
- 4 Prior to that time, prior to people
- 5 in the summer coming to visit Gay Head, people in
- 6 Gay Head were subsistence farmers; so that land
- 7 was essentially worthless and people ignored it
- 8 except when they went duck hunting or anything. I
- 9 think when the fifties came around people
- 10 recognized they could sell those lots.
- 11 By that time Henry Cronig was
- 12 developing lots in Gay Head and perhaps he had
- 13 some influence with people to construct the road,
- 14 lead them to the value of constructing the road.
- 15 O. What was the reaction of people in
- 16 town to the construction of Moshup Trail?
- 17 A. I think that they were open to it
- 18 and thought it was a good thing. I don't know
- 19 that I have any other way to judge that than just
- 20 not hearing anybody voice disapproval of it.
- 21 O. To the best of your recollection,
- 22 you don't remember anyone voicing any opposition
- 23 to the construction of Moshup Trail?
- 24 A. I do not.

- 1 Q. In your opinion, was there anything
- 2 different or special about the land in the Moshup
- 3 Trail area?
- A. Well, like I said, it was sand
- 5 dunes and, you know, it was great fun to run over
- 6 when we were kids, you know, and to play in, but,
- 7 you know, it was essentially, like I said,
- 8 worthless land in the eyes of folks who owned it
- 9 back in those days.
- 10 Q. You mentioned some land that you
- 11 had developed in town in the area that we're
- 12 talking about, in the Moshup Trail area. Did you
- 13 own any land elsewhere in town?
- 14 A. Yeah, sure, you know, through a,
- 15 you know, the five or six years that I was in the
- 16 development business we bought and subdivided
- 17 several parcels, you know, in the Lobsterville
- 18 area, on the state road area.
- 19 Q. Would you consider yourself
- 20 experienced in developing and improving land for
- 21 sale in Aquinnah?
- 22 A. Today probably not but then, yeah,
- 23 I was -- you know, just through my experiences of
- 24 being an assessor, I was familiar with the land in

- 1 Aquinnah and had done several state revaluation
- 2 efforts, overseen those efforts on behalf of the
- 3 town and, you know, developed these lots myself
- 4 so, yeah, you know, and been involved with
- 5 interpreting zoning statutes and stuff like that,
- 6 yeah.
- 7 Q. At what point did you feel as
- 8 though you lost that experience?
- 9 A. Well, to the extent, you know, I
- 10 just have pursued -- when I gave up being a
- 11 developer on Martha's Vineyard back in '92, went
- 12 to work for the tribe, I think that my
- 13 disassociation from the -- and I had retired as a
- 14 selectman in Gay Head in 1990, so I think from
- 15 that point forward it's just been a separation.
- 16 Q. 1992 approximately?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. You mentioned your service as a
- 19 selectman. I believe earlier you mentioned to
- 20 Brian you served as a selectman for twenty-five
- 21 years; is that right?
- 22 A. An assessor for twenty-five years;
- 23 a selectman, I think it was for sixteen years.
- Q. Did you serve on any other boards

- 1 or act in any other official capacity for the
- 2 town?
- A. At various times, you know, any --
- 4 you know, I've been pound keeper, assistant shell
- 5 fish warden, school committee, board of appeals,
- 6 planning board, planning board review committee,
- 7 land bank advisory committee, cable advisory
- 8 committee, you know, there's probably -- refuse
- 9 district committee member, representative to the
- 10 board of county commissioners in their fiscal
- 11 boards, just over the years many, many, many
- 12 positions in town.
- 13 Q. Do you currently serve in any board
- 14 or act in any official capacity?
- 15 A. Thank the Lord, I do not.
- 16 Q. As you were developing land up
- 17 until 1992, what engineers and land surveyors
- 18 represented you in these developments efforts?
- 19 A. I think principally Doug Hoehn and
- 20 Dick Barbini from Schofield Brothers who are the
- 21 exclusive people we tried to use. I may have used
- 22 Doug Duling (ph.) on some occasions or Russell
- 23 Smith on a couple of occasions but principally
- 24 Schofield Brothers.

