V I R G I N I A:
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR NORTHAMPTON COUNTY


CASE NO: CL22000113-00
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REQUEST FOR PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION

BEFORE: The Honorable Stephen C. Mahan, Judge DATE: August 18, 2022


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(The court reporter was sworn.)
THE COURT: All right. This is the matter of Tankard against Monroe, et al.; is that correct, Counsel?

MR. KAHLE: Yes.
MR. MARTINGAYLE: Yes, sir.
THE COURT: Counsel ready to proceed?
MR. KAHLE: Yes, Your Honor. Doug Kahle here on behalf of the plaintiff, ready to proceed.

MR. MARTINGAYLE: Judge, Kevin Martingayle on behalf of the defendants. I would like to introduce the people at my table. This is Chris Monroe, one of the defendants. At the other end of the table is Jodi Reynolds, the other defendant. And between them is Patricie Drake who is an attorney in my firm. I don't know if you have had a chance to meet her yet so I thought I would introduce her.

THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Martingayle. Welcome, Ms. Drake.

Now, we're set today on a request for a preliminary injunction; is that correct?

MR. KAHLE: That's correct, Judge.
THE COURT: All right. Mr. Kahle.

MR. KAHLE: Shall I proceed?
THE COURT: You may if you're ready.
MR. KAHLE: I am ready and I have with me Mr. David Tankard sitting beside me. And, Judge, in lieu of doing a site visit and driving up the shore, it would be a nice drive, we have a couple of aerial photographs that you may want to see just to kind of get yourself oriented. If I may approach, Your Honor?

THE COURT: You may. Any objection, Mr. Martingayle?

MR. MARTINGAYLE: I don't have an objection because I don't know if he's trying to move them into evidence but I don't have a problem with you looking at them.

THE COURT: Thank you. All right.
MR. KAHLE: You may want to pull them apart like Mr. Martingayle did. Google Earth couldn't capture the whole picture without losing detail.

THE COURT: All right.
$\operatorname{MR}$. KAHLE: And the one that has a red roof in it, hold that to the left.

THE COURT: All right.
MR. KAHLE: So this is the property we're
talking about, Judge. What we're going to hear from Mr. Tankard is that that red roof there, that's the defendants' house. That road you see going sort of north and south is Route 183.

THE COURT: You said north and south? MR. KAHLE: I'm pretty sure this is oriented north and south and Mr. Tankard is nodding in agreement. So Route 183 is the paved highway.

THE COURT: That looks like it's more or less east and west if the compass orientation is correct.

MR. KAHLE: I'm going to go with your compass direction and just orient it just based on how the picture is set up then.

THE COURT: That is from the bottom of the image on the left-hand side toward the top of the image, is that the paved road we're speaking about?

MR. KAHLE: I do see that. Let me back up and I'm just going to talk based on the way that picture is oriented. The paved road that shows running from the bottom of the page up is State Route 183. You're going to hear toward the bottom of the page that's a dirt road which is in
the easement that's the subject of the dispute that we have here.

Now, the pictures are a little bit dark but you can see coming in from Route 183 past the red-roofed house you can see where a forested area begins. Well, Mr. Tankard is going to testify that that's about 15 acres where he converted farmland back in 1987 to a treed forested area which of course created a 15-acre buffer between his farming operation and the defendants' property.

Carrying on, you're also going to see, and you can kind of make it out in the left photograph that in between the easement and the defendants' home is a treed area of a certain size.

Now, I will tell you that Mr. Tankard is going to testify that pretty much right across the street from this dirt road that's in the easement is where his, I call it headquarters, that's where his office is. He calls it a distribution center which is where when the plants are brought off the farms they go there where they get sorted and put in tractor-trailers and taken to customers up and down the east
coast. You're going to hear from Mr. Tankard that his family specifically negotiated that easement because it presented the preferred way to get to their distribution center from this farm and another farm that the family bought back in ' 87.

In the right-hand photograph you're going to see two things. Well, you'll see where the farm actually begins and you're going to hear from Mr. Tankard that compared to 1987 when they bought the property that he reduced the farm area by that 15 acres when he converted it into a forest area.

You can see once you get out of the treed area and you start to get to where there is looks like a row of plants, there's a structure and that you're going to hear is where Mr. Tankard's family back in '06 wanted to house some migrant workers so they got a permit to build what I understand is six bedrooms, three apartments.

You're going hear from him that he got all the permits and then for some short period migrant workers lived there. He's going to testify that the county did all the inspections and once it was finished that they were cleared
to live there but that at some point after '06 he stopped having migrants live there and he has full-time employees living on site.

Towards the top of the right photograph, Judge, you can kind of see a white line, if you will, you're going to hear from Mr. Tankard that that's an irrigation pond that was there. I understand it's kind of hard to see but that's an irrigation pond that was there back when he bought the farm or when his family bought the property in '87. It's still there.

He says over the 34 years since ' 87 , I'll go with that, that the irrigation pond increased but he's never operated a borrow pit on the property. It's clearly an irrigation pond and farms have irrigation ponds.

So absent questions about what you're seeing, what we're here about, as you said at the outset, we just want to maintain the status quo ante. That's what we're looking to get done here. We want to preliminarily enjoin the defendants from interfering with the right, that Parcel B, which is the big farm right there, the right it has to an express easement. It's pertinent to Parcel B which gives it the right to
get from Parcel B down to Route 183. You're going to see a 1987 deed where his family with him being one of the grantees bought this Parcel B farm and they bought another farm called Parcel A that's another 13 or 14 or so acres that also has the express easement to use this dirt road to get down to 183.

Of course you've got to go through Parcel B to get to Parcel A because the easement ends at Parcel B so the right for Parcel A to use the easement requires plants and whatever from Parcel A to go through Parcel B.

Judge, the easement, it is a dirt road. It is a dirt road. You're going to see from a plat that defines my client's property pursuant to his deed. You're going to see that Mr. Tankard's property abuts the defendants' property. The 15 acres of forest area abuts their property --

You'll hear from him back in '87 when the whole family bought both properties between then and 2010 and the children got in the business that they divided things up. My client got Parcel B and his brother got Parcel A.

Now, what you're going to hear and see is
that the defendants oppose the request for a preliminary injunction on two theories, it's a nuisance because it's a farm. Well, I think anyone knows farms can be dusty and noisy and even kind of stinky and it has a lot of equipment going back and forth.

Well, you saw a reference to the Virginia Right to Farm Act that we're going to be talking basically what it does as you'll hear it prohibits a nuisance action against a farm as long as the farm is complying with the laws and regulations, as long as it's complying with best management practices and the statute says it's presumed that the farm is substantially complying unless proven otherwise.

You'll hear from Mr. Tankard what he does to comply and you'll hear from him things he does not do that would not be in compliance. You're going hear from him that he has never blasted on his Parcel B. There is no reason to. It's a nursery. You'll see that he has never operated a borrow pit on his property. He has an irrigation pond, nothing more.

He's going to testify under oath that he has never hauled sand off of this Parcel B. In
the course of 34 years of operating a farm on that property using that easement apparently one time you're going to hear about when some piece of equipment, a motor grader had a hydraulic leak. One time in 34 years. You'll hear about that.

When it came to Mr. Tankard's attention it was addressed, it was fixed and no follow-up adverse consequence. I will reserve just a fact, back from this first picture that shows the red house, you're going to hear from opposing counsel and the defendants they would rather Mr. Tankard not use the easement but instead go out a different direction which would require then all of Mr. Tankard's vehicles to go along 183, past the defendants' house where they would then turn right into my client's distribution center, and Mr. Tankard walked it out, from 183 to the front door of the defendants' house is about 40 feet give or take, where the distance from the easement is four times that.

So in terms of the noise and other matters that the defendants consider a nuisance, they want to bring it four times closer. Judge, so as to the nuisance part, again, you're going
to see and maybe you've already read the Right to Farm Act bars a nuisance claim. Mr. Tankard substantially complies with best management practices and the laws and regulations.

Then they say, well, important, that Parcel B is overburdening the easement and they argue about that migrant camp, migrant workers camp. Well, you see in the picture and you'll hear from Mr. Tankard it's three small apartments for full-time employees.

As to whether that fact overburdens the easement -- Judge, just very briefly, there's a Cushman case, Cushman Corporation versus Barnes, it's a 1963 case, 204 Va. 245, talks about an easement like ours where the easement is unlimited as to what it can be used for and the law says access and easement, access and egress to Parcel B, it says, Supreme Court says in that situation the easement may be used, in quotes, any purpose to which the dominant estate may then or in the future unreasonably be devoted.

Of interest in the Cushman case, Judge, it was a 126-acre farm, had two dwellings on it and the owner wanted to subdivide it to create a subdivision with commercial uses and 34
residential lots. The Supreme Court said that's reasonably foreseeable. Judge, I submit that even though those three apartments for employees weren't on the property back in 1987, that it's reasonable for a nursery operation to have three apartments for employee housing consistent with the Cushman case.

Overburdening the easement, Judge, you're going to hear from Mr. Tankard that he's reduced the farmland by 15 acres since 1987, hasn't increased the farmland whatsoever. I'm sure you're going to hear that he did acquire eight acres along the way, along his Parcel B that got brought into Parcel B, eight acres of forest area, no farmland. There's been a net decrease you'll you'll hear from him in farmland from 1987 to the present.

Now, we've been talking so far, Judge, about the express easement that you've seen and will see more about pertinent to Parcel B. Totally separate from that, Judge, there have been plants brought off of another farm west of Parcel B down that dirt road and it's been going on since 1987. That's not being done.

That other farm isn't using that dirt
road pursuant to any express easement but it's been doing it since 1987. If the defendants don't want that other farm to bring its product down that dirt road, well, it could have some time in the last time 34 years or arguably now bring trespass action against that other farm but that dirt road being used by that other farm is not being used pursuant to the express easement in favor of Parcel B. Again, a trespass action that could seek that other farm to stop using that dirt road, that trespass action is not before the Court.

You're going to see, Judge, what really brought things to a head here, you going to hear from Mr. Tankard he kept a timeline he called of the different interactions, problems he was having with Mr. Monroe. He kept a timeline on his computer going back to February of 2020 and there's a lot of entries but I'm going to have him just go to maybe five or six of them to highlight, but it culminated with what you saw in the complaint, a photograph where Mr. Monroe admits that he planted whatever it is, six or eight short telephone poles blocking the easement at which point in time Mr. Tankard sought legal assistance.

You're going to hear, well, he can get out of his property going other ways. He can get to his distribution center going other ways. Of course, Judge, there is not an easement by necessity we're claiming. It's an express easement that Mr. Tankard bargained and his family bargained to get back in 1987 and he wants to be able to continue using it, and you'll hear from him that for the first 31 years, give or take, the use of the easement, never a complaint. Nobody had any problems with it.

He's going to testify that nothing in substance has changed in terms of his operations until these defendants came in. Judge, I'll save it for closing but I contend if you'll agree at the end of the day the four factors that would support a preliminary injunction in this case protecting Mr. Tankard's right to use the easement like he has for 34 years, I think you'll find that those factors are all satisfied.

THE COURT: So specifically what specific or itemized relief are you requesting as a part of the injunction?

MR. KAHLE: Yes, what I've requested I
believe I phrased it, to enjoin the defendants temporarily, preliminarily from interfering with Mr. Tankard's use of the easement, broad sense. Clearly that would subsume within that that he remove those poles or we establish when he will remove those poles so that that, the use of that easement is I call it unfeathered.

And, you know, Judge, last comment, I think on the screen you're going to see a lot of photos of trucks and trailers and farm type equipment coming and going on the easement. I'll tell you now, we'll stipulate that over 34 years, I can't even image, I'm sure vehicles went up and down that easement thousands of times, not at issue. That's what the farm does.

Vehicles come and go, plants come and go. They sent me about two or three hours ago copies, I think 184 pictures showing that and we stipulate that was probably on the dirt road we're talking about and we have no problems those photos. Thank you.

THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Kahle.
Mr. Martingayle.
MR. MARTINGAYLE: Thank you, Judge. And as the great Paul Harvey used to say, now for the
rest of the story. So the first thing is I want to say what we're asking for. I'll start with our conclusions. Number 1, we don't think they can prove they're entitled to a temporary injunction. We believe it should be denied. The parties should then proceed with discovery, set a trial and have a trial.

There's a lot going on here that requires a lot of evidence and this is not nearly as simple as Mr. Kahle would like for it to be. However, our alternate position if you decide that they can establish the need for this easement pending a trial is if you do so with a number of restrictions and I'll tell you generally what those restrictions are that we would seek.

Number 1, that the easement would serve only Lots A and B and that it be explicitly stated that it cannot serve anything that is the expanded portion of $B$ because the evidence is going to show that $B$ had approximately six and a half acres added to it when a property line was vacated.

So they automatically created additional burden as a matter of law which they're not
allowed to do. They've made the servient estate more servient and they don't get to do that. So we would want it to serve Lots A and B, nothing else.

Number 2, that they would only be permitted to conduct properly permitted and zoned uses. So anything that doesn't have all the requisite permits and not properly zoned would not be allowed.

The third condition we would want is that there would be no use by anyone residing on Lots A or B. The reason we say that is we have tried through every means possible in contacting people at the county to find if there's a certificate of occupancy applicable to this property.

Not only is there no certificate of occupancy, as it turns out the tax assessment map indicates that there is no dwelling on this property. Well, they just handed you a photo that shows there is. It's on the picture that shows where the lot was on the back and you see a home that he said was originally intended to be migrant housing and is now used for something else.

Well, the county doesn't appear to know
that because there's no CO, and as far as we know, there's also water because their own plat, which we got in full which shows the writing at the top that they cut off, says it has not been approved for any source of water.

So there's not supposed to be a person there and so we would want whatever is going on that it can't be used by any residents. I'm not asking you at this time to make some clear determination as to whether or not people are allowed to live there or not, but the easement to the extent it is being used, should not be used by any people who are residing there.

The next condition that we would ask is that you declare that we are, in fact, allowed to install a gate, and to the extent that we use a lock, Mr. Tankard would be given a key or an access code as appropriate but only Mr. Tankard would be allowed to use it and only his legally authorized agents and nobody else. It can't become a situation where any old person can run up and down that road and that's the problem that we've been contending with.

Now, these are the problems that we believe the evidence is going to show, Judge.

First of all, the idea that they need this is undone by what Mr. Kahle has already handed to you. He talked about the house with the red roof. If you look up the left side of that photo, follow the road up, you'll see that there is a sandy looking trail.

THE COURT: Right.
MR. MARTINGAYLE: That is what is often referred to as the Johnson easement. That land we're going to show is owned by Mr. Tankard and the reason it's called the Johnson easement is that some years ago Johnson got an easement. So in this situation Tankard is the servient property and someone at some point was allowed to use it as an easement to get to the back of that property.

But we've got evidence showing, including video that Tankard is currently using that and it's a very convenient route. It goes straight across Route 183 and straight off to Tankard's property. So currently he's got a straight shot easement or path that has been used for quite a while now and he's got other access points that we'll show you. So the idea that he needs this today is just not accurate.

THE COURT: Does that easement extend all the way back to the structure that Mr . Kahle suggested is employee housing?

MR. MARTINGAYLE: Yes, it goes all the way back and then they have other accesses for that house to use. And the evidence is going to show that there are lots of ways on and off of this property.

For some reason and the only thing we can speculate, Judge, is that some of the people don't like driving these large vehicles on Route 183. So what they like to do is use all these different paths and little roads that are back there and then come down the easement that comes to my clients' home and then cut across there but they don't need it. They've got other routes and that's the point.

So Number 1, we don't believe he can prove that he needs this access because he's got multiple. Number 2, they've expanded the size of Parcel B by six and a half acres which the law says you can't do. Number 3, we are going to show you, Judge, that they're using or historically have used this easement that is at issue here today to serve other lots and other
properties including some that aren't even connected.

Why, because the Tankards are a family and they've got all these different properties and operations going on in that area. So the way they look at it is, hey, you can use my easement and you can drive all over my property to get to your property. We don't agree with that.

They have increased the size and scope of the easement and the law says they can't do that either. They're not allowed to serve other lots including some that aren't even connected. We know that they have been serving at least one other business. This nursery is called David's Nursery. There's another one called Tankard Nursery, a relative of the plaintiff.

And so they're using this route as well to go to and from Tankard Nursery. They changed the zoning and that's a fascinating thing that we think the documents are going to show very clearly. In 2006 they got a building permit to build migrant housing. This is in somebody's handwriting.

It shows right here, 2006, migrant housing. After that was built, ten years later,
they didn't like the zoning that was applied. The zoning at the time, Judge, we put it in our pleading, the zoning was ES/R-A1, existing subdivision residential agriculture one.

So in 2016 Mr. Tankard contacts the county and says, we don't think that's the right zoning. It should be different zoning that allows us to do more stuff. So then there's a zoning application put in and guess how it describes the land, vacant land, no buildings proposed. There's a building on it that had been there for nearly ten years.

The zoning got changed creating an additional burden allowing them to do more with the property, that's part of the problem. And to the extent that they do have migrant housing going on, which I don't know exactly what the evidence will be here today, we haven't had the benefit of depositions.

We haven't had a chance to start going and checking out who's in that building but to the extent they're doing migrant housing, it's illegal. They're not allowed to do that. Once again, an additional burden.

So, Judge, this is the problem. This is
not the same use that it has always been used for. It has been expanded by the size, the nature. They changed the zoning. They changed the zoning based on a false representation by somebody. It's a mess.

THE COURT: All right. Let's assume for a moment the zoning has been changed, a change in the zoning in and of itself doesn't in the abstract increase any burden on the servient estate, right?

MR. MARTINGAYLE: Well, except for this, Judge, the servient estate still has the same old zone. So what they're doing is they got a more intense or heavier use on the back side of the property. So they're going through us. We don't have the right to do what they get to do. They get to do something that's heavier and creates more traffic.

THE COURT: Whether the right exists to do the same thing isn't the test I don't think, is it?

MR. MARTINGAYLE: Well, it has to do --
THE COURT: That's a different argument but I don't think that's the test. My only question was, the existence of two different
zonings for the adjacent properties does not in and of itself create any specific burden on your clients, right?

MR. MARTINGAYIE: It depends on the nature of the change in the zoning.

THE COURT: The change or the use?
MR. MARTINGAYLE: Well, so zoning typically allows or disallows different uses and so to the extent that you have changed the zoning, particularly where there was a false statement to get it, creates an additional burden, that would be a problem because it increases the servitude nature of the servient estate.

THE COURT: It could be a problem but doesn't it depend upon how it's used.

MR. MARTINGAYLE: It depends on that and how you view it.

THE COURT: Okay. So if I'm correct about that, what about the use, if anything, has changed since the zoning was changed?

MR. MARTINGAYLE: It increased in the size and the nature of what they're, what they're calling the farming operation which is really a nursery operation with sometimes dump truck sand
coming off the property when they claim they haven't done any blasting, but my client is going to say, I've heard the blasting, I went to investigate it and I saw a big backhoe in there digging up sand, putting it in trucks and taking it off. That's not farming. What that is that is some kind of pit operation which also requires a certain permit.

THE COURT: It may.
MR. MARTINGAYLE: So they're doing a lot of additional things back there that we think that they -- they in their own words and we've got an email from Mr. Tankard to Northampton County where he's complaining about the zoning and saying that he thinks that's going to limit him in some way and he requested the change.

So I don't know what all the evidence is because I haven't had a chance to take his deposition yet, so at this point I'm doing the best I can with all the records that we've been able to dig out but what we do know is that based on video and photographic evidence that we've been able to put together, we created something to show you today.

We know that there's been a very heavy
commercial type of use of this and that it is serving multiple other properties, which is not allowed, and that it involves sand hauling, which is not allowed, and a number of other problems including the spill that Mr. Kahle referred to. There's so many different issues going on. THE COURT: All right. And let me go back to what I was asking about before, under the prior zoning, prior to the 2016 change, what was permitted in terms of use, that is, what was the scope and use permitted under that prior zoning? MR. MARTINGAYLE: It describes in the zoning under ES/R-A1 as, if you look at the zoning table, it's described as a secondary zoning district within primary subdivision residential zoning and it gives recognition to rural origins and allowable light agricultural uses.

It does anticipate all of this property being used as a heavy commercial operation where they brag about being an interstate nursery that serves all over the place. So that's the problems and I think Mr. Tankard's own email -THE COURT: What does light agricultural mean?

MR. MARTINGAYLE: Judge, in terms of the definitions, it's not entirely clear but I think what you're likely to determine is that what they're doing back there is clearly more than whatever that's intended to mean.

So I think, once again, we're still trying to figure a lot of this out and it's complicated and there's a lot of history to it, but that's one of the reasons why we don't believe they're entitled to an injunction today.

There's an awful lot of fact discovery that needs to occur. There's a lot of formal discovery that needs to take place and they currently have access to one hundred percent of their property. They have not been prevented in any way from conducting their operations so they don't need an injunction.

THE COURT: Is it correct that your clients do expect the evidence to demonstrate that your clients have, in fact, blocked the use of the easement?

MR. MARTINGAYLE: Yes.
THE COURT: All right. So --
MR. MARTINGAYLE: Because of the way it was being used.

THE COURT: And do you agree that this is an express easement?

MR. MARTINGAYLE: Yes.
THE COURT: And so other than your clients' dissatisfaction with the use of the express easement, what permits them to block the easement from any use, what principle of law?

MR. MARTINGAYLE: Well, until this suit was filed, they weren't sure this was allowed at all. What they were told by their closing attorney is that --

THE COURT: It doesn't matter what they were told.

MR. MARTINGAYLE: What they believed --
THE COURT: It doesn't matter what they believed. I'm asking you what principle of law permits them to block access and use of an express easement?

MR. MARTINGAYLE: If it's demonstrated in court through competent evidence that there is, in fact, an express easement in place and that it is being used properly, the answer is that they can't block it. The evidence is not going to show that. The evidence is going to show that it's being used for a number of reasons and by
other people not authorized and so what do you do at that point?

THE COURT: Well, my question was, and I appreciate you answering a question I didn't ask as a good advocate, Mr. Martingayle, but my question was, what principle of law, even if they disagree with the use of the easement, what principle of law permits them to block all use of the easement?

MR. MARTINGAYLE: I don't know the answer to that.

THE COURT: I think I do. I think there's none but there may be, there may be of which I'm not aware but I'm not aware of any.

MR. MARTINGAYLE: I don't know how there is a way to slow down, regulate or limit the use of an easement to legal purposes only without going to court.

THE COURT: Right. Other than through some either negotiations out of court among the principals or in a court proceeding of some kind.

MR. MARTINGAYLE: True. If somebody is trying to engage in self-help really it would be this, they either leave the easement open and
then it continues to be misused or they block it off and they have prevented all uses including those that should be allowed. So it sounds like self-help is not the greatest solution.

THE COURT: It also sounds as if it may create other issues potentially including in a court of equity.

MR. MARTINGAYLE: Well, you would have to find that anyone who comes in seeking equitable relief also has clean hands, so that would apply to both sides, but we're not the one moving for an injunction. The party moving for the injunction have to show, Number 1, they need it, they're suffering irreparable harm without it, which they're not because they have lots of access, and that they have been using the easement correctly, which they have not.

THE COURT: If they have an express easement that has been deprived them in its entirety, that would seem by definition irreparable harm. There's a reason for my questions up to this point and I know you know that, Mr. Martingayle, but for the benefit of everybody else, I just thought it might be helpful to say it.

MR. MARTINGAYLE: Judge, I appreciate the questions and I understand your thinking in this and the problem, of course, is that after a lot of push and pull between people who didn't come to court, finally the breaking point was reached and the easement was blocked and the folks on my side knew that they had other access points that they could use and stopped the misuse of the easement.

THE COURT: So let me say this before what I'm going to ask everybody to do in a moment, I appreciate the two individuals such as the parties in this case, that what may seem as if it is a straight-forward and effective solution for something that aggravates them for whatever reason, it's not always something that the law smiles upon on either side.

To make that clear, it's equal opportunity in that regard and if somebody, the law as a general proposition would appear, I'm happy if counsel thinks that I am misapprehending the law, I'm happy to be corrected, but as a general proposition, if there is an express easement, it's hard to imagine or conceptualize the circumstance under which a party could
deprive the holder of that easement of all use of the easement.

MR. MARTINGAYLE: I understand that.
THE COURT: It could exist. Again, I'm willing to acknowledge that in the law there's almost never a never but it's hard to imagine one.

By the same token, of course, an express easement is for a particular purpose and has to be exercised in accordance with the grant of the easement and certain activities which substantially burden or overburden the estate from which the easement was granted are also not smiled upon by the law. Not only are they not smiled upon but they can be enjoined or prohibited or can be the subject of a claim for many things including damages, as can deprivation of an express easement without legal justification being the basis for a claim of damages I think.

So that all leads me to where I'm trying to go at this point because part of what I've heard suggests to me that there may be, while this litigation pends, some accommodations the parties may be able to reach among themselves and
eliminate potential problems to both sides at least while this is pending or until, that is while it's pending whether it's resolved by judgment down the road or by settlement among the parties. Has there been any discussion?

MR. MARTINGAYLE: Yes, sir.
THE COURT: There has?
MR. KAHLE: Yes, Judge, not successful.
THE COURT: All right. Of course I don't know if my comments may not have been of any assistance in that regard, I don't know, but certainly it would seem at first blush based on the Court's review of the pleadings and openings of counsel that there are potential risks or consequences to both sides in this case which reasonable people might want to try to mitigate or reduce if they can but maybe they don't.

Would it be of any assistance to give counsel a few minutes to chat? We can't take a lot of time today if we're going to have it heard today but I'm happy to give everybody a little bit of time here.

MR. KAHLE: Judge, we did talk, Mr. Martingayle and I, before we came into court here and the conditions that they would seek,
it's not tenable unfortunately. It would be -especially based on the relationship the last two to three years.

THE COURT: I appreciate that that often creates personal difficulties in reaching what otherwise might seem rational or reasonable to a third party who does have any of those emotions. MR. KAHLE: And I'm a big believer in a suit being resolved if it can be but I'm also very comfortable when you hear the evidence, not an attorney's argument, when you hear the evidence, there's nothing about Mr. Tankard operating out there in any way that's not by the books, and I have to say this, the statement most of which is not ever going to be in evidence that the county didn't even know those apartments were out there, that's no water to that property, I mean, Mr. Tankard has handed me, which will be in evidence which is what the facts are, that his property has a well, it has a septic tank, and as far as the county, this is 2022, It shows part of the land as a building site.

So I don't know where the argument is coming from that the county doesn't know there's a building but it's obviously factually not true.

So it's that kind of thing that you've heard that the evidence isn't going to support. The evidence will support that Mr. Tankard is a good farmer, his family has been operating there 34 years, not a problem from the county, from the state, nobody until the defendant wished they hadn't moved next to a farm, that's the bottom line.

THE COURT: All right. So is that no you don't want to take a few minutes to talk?

MR. KAHIE: Unfortunately I know what they want and --

THE COURT: Well, what they wanted before coming here today may be different, it may not be now. As I said, my corments may not have been of any assistance in helping people to appreciate that maybe prior positions need to be re-evaluated. I don't know what their prior, anybody's prior positions may have been.

MR. MARTINGAYLE: Judge, I don't mind telling you, for purposes of resolving everything we were happy to let them use their easement subject to the same restrictions I read out loud in the beginning.

THE COURT: I don't want to get into
negotiations.
MR. MARTINGAYLE: But they want to put on their case and what I'm going to ask you to do at the end of their presentation is to strike it because I think you're going to find enough evidence of unclean hands and expansion of the use so they will not be entitled to it. So it's a gamble on their part too.

THE COURT: That could be, that could be, but given at least the initial assessment or what appears to be the initial assessment, there may not be a legal principle that permits a blockage of all use of the easement.

MR. MARTINGAYLE: If we were at trial, Judge, that might be your final ruling.

THE COURT: I'm only ruling on an injunction today.

MR. MARTINGAYLE: Right, they're here for extraordinary relief that has certain elements that they must prove including that they are suffering irreparable harm.

THE COURT: As I said, there may well be there's no legal principle that permits that type so-called self-help for the alleged improper use of an easement. Then, in and of itself a
violation of the express easement would appear to constitute, I think by definition as a matter of law, as irreparable harm, I think. But this is a court of equity and the Court has some additional potential tools in the tool box, if you will.

MR. MARTINGAYLE: Judge, this is what is interesting to me that I don't understand and haven't really got an answer to. It's hard to conceive why they would have an objection to limiting this to Lots A and B exactly as the easement does, what would be the objection?

THE COURT: I don't want to get into all of that, Mr. Martingayle.

MR. MARTINGAYLE: The fact that they're fighting us over the things that I mentioned as the limits that should be on it explains how we got here today because he wants to have unlimited use of the easement as if he owns the property which he does not.

He is going across this property owned by my clients to conduct his operation and he wants zero limits and the law doesn't allow it. So I guess he could put on his presentation and explain to you the justification for the relief sought, which is you have to unblock it and we
get to do whatever we want with this easement. THE COURT: I don't know that that is going to be the Court's ruling either.

MR. KAHLE: We're not asking for that. We want the express easement that's pertinent to Parcel B to be respected and his rights not to be interfered with. And you're right, because in part you saw my brief in support of a motion for a preliminary injunction. The Supreme Court says when you interfere with somebody's property rights it's deemed to be irreparable harm, that's the law.

As far as the unclean hands, there's nothing you're going to see -- I'm going to change my sequence when I put Mr. Tankard on the stand to respond to the statement made by Mr. Martingayle that the county doesn't know that there's a well for water out there, there's a septic tank and there's a building site. I want to set the tone in the beginning so you understand and are attuned to the evidence and not what attorneys say.

THE COURT: I appreciate that, Mr. Kahle, that there is going to be -- lawyers probably know this but your clients may not know but as a
general proposition, the Judge generally understands when one party says something, the other party disputes it and that, therefore, it is not something the Court simply accepts without some skepticism or openmindedness is probably a better way to put it.

MR. KAHLE: And my last comment before I put Mr. Tankard on since Mr. Martingayle brought it up about a gate, in the normal life a gate which would defer somebody straying onto that dirt road, hypothetically what's wrong with that, but when you add the notion of a gate with a punch code, I can see right now, the second day, oh, my gosh, the punch code doesn't seem to work and Mr. Tankard has got trucks backed up. With history, unfortunately, you look forward by looking back and knowing what he's dealt with to have the defendants have some kind of punch code, gate that all his drivers got to use back and forth, obviously it's just not feasible for a nursery operation like this.

THE COURT: All right. Who is your first witness?

MR. KAHLE: I call Mr. David Tankard to the stand.


Q Now, how long have you worked in the commercial nursery business?

A My father started the nursery in late '77 and I've been involved weekends when I was still in school and since then.

Q Now --
A I did take a break for nine years when I was in the U.S. Navy. Other than that, I've been at the nursery even when I was in college working summers.

Q Thank you. I was thinking I should probably make sure we're clear that at the times when I
ask you a question and I pose it as you, that I'm talking about you individually and you operating as your business operation, David's Nursery?

MR. MARTINGAYLE: Your Honor, I need to object. I think it's important for this record to know when he's talking about this as Tankard the plaintiff who is an individual versus talking as a representative of a separate entity in his business.

THE COURT: All right. Mr. Kahle.
MR. KAHLE: I assume he'll object when I ask a question. If it's not clear to you, Your Honor, what's he's talking about in context then I'll belabor the matter.

MR. MARTINGAYLE: Your Honor, I need to get clarification, for the record if he asks him a question and says "you," that means the man sitting up here who is the plaintiff in this case. The business is not a party to this case. We may have a necessary parties problem but I think it needs to be clear that if there's a question put to him as "you," I'm going to assume and I hope the Court does it means Mr. Tankard as an individual.

THE COURT: Is there any question about who owns the easement?

MR. KAHLE: There shouldn't be, Judge. You're going to see in the deed --

THE COURT: Is it Mr. Tankard individually?

MR. KAHLE: Mr. Tankard owns the easement individually.

THE COURT: Right. So there may or may not be a necessary parties issue, Mr. Martingayle, I don't know, but for this purpose I'm not sure that that's meaningful.

MR. KAHLE: I don't think there's a missing party here, Judge, but --

THE COURT: I'll ask you, Mr. Kahle, if you're attempting to specify anybody other than Mr. Tankard, that you do so with your question.

MR. KAHLE: Sure, sure. Judge, what is your protocol, Judge. May I approach witness from time to time?

THE COURT: You may.
MR. KAHIE: And, of course, the first one is going to be the Google photographs you've already seen and then, Judge, your protocol as I have documents which I'm going to follow up and request to move into evidence, do you want to see
them as the witness sees them or only after they've been admitted into evidence?

THE COURT: Only after the witness has identified it and it's been admitted.

MR. KAHLE: Okay.
THE COURT: Unless it's something that you're asking the witness to testify about, at which point if you'll offer it for admission, then it can be returned to the witness and we can view it together.

MR. KAHLE: I'll follow that.

BY MR. KAHLE:
Q Mr. Tankard, I've handed you two Google Earth photographs, now, do you recognize those as photographs that you brought to me?

A Yes.
Q So this is coming from you, not from my argument, if you'll place the two photographs side by side with the photograph with the red roof to the left, talk through and explain to the Judge what he is seeing in this photograph starting with that red roof. What's that red roof belong to?

MR. MARTINGAYLE: Your Honor, can we have some further foundation laid, for example, as to
when these were supposedly taken because they appear dated?

THE COURT: Can you lay some foundation for their application in today's context, Mr. Kahle?

MR. KAHLE: Sure.

BY MR. KAHLE:
Q Mr. Tankard, the images depicted on these
Google Earth photographs, do they represent the conditions that exist out on those properties currently?

A Yes.
Q You're familiar with the property that these photographs depict?

A Yes.
Q You're familiar with where the
defendants' property is?
A Yes.
Q Do you know firsthand that their house has a red roof?

A Actually, no, I had never seen it. I mean, maybe, I guess I do driving by. I do think it's red.

Q Are you familiar with where the house


Q Does that show -- what is that area?
A Well, between Monroe's house, you see his is, Monroe's property is a little littler green. Where it gets dark green is where the transition is to our property, and when we initially bought the property that dark green was all farmland. We have since planted it in pine trees and it's all pines right now.

Q And do these photographs accurately depict the current maturity of that forest area?

A Yes, it appears so. I'm actually not sure how long ago this photograph was taken and from the top you can't really tell how big the trees are so they might be a little bigger now.

Q But my question is, do the photographs accurately depict the current situation out there on the ground?

A Yes.
MR. KAHIE: Judge, I move to admit
this document as Exhibit Number 1, he's described --

THE COURT: Any objection?
MR. MARTINGAYLE: No, sir.
THE COURT: All right. Plaintiff's 1. If you'll hand that to the bailiff, Mr. Tankard, to your right, there you go, I'll mark it.
(Plaintiff's Exhibit Number 1 was marked for identification and admitted into evidence.) THE COURT: Sir, return that to Mr. Tankard.

BY $\mathbb{M R}$. KAHLE:
Q Looking back at Plaintiff's 1, Mr. Tankard, look at the upper right-hand corner of the right photograph, do you see a long white streak?

A Yes.
Q What is that?
A That is next to the pond where sand was dug out of the pond. So on the far side of that white streak is where our irrigation pond is that's on the property that existed before 1987 and still is.

Q Silly question, what is the irrigation pond used for?

A It's used just for irrigating the crops on Parcel 2-3, Parcel B and Parcel A. So we use irrigation for that and we use irrigation on our adjacent Parcel 8-A-7 which would be to the west from, yeah, west of the current parcel.

Q And did I hear you say that that pond has been there since 1987?

A It was there when we bought to property
in '87. We did expand the pond. We haven't done any expansion in at least ten years I would say.

Q Okay. Did I hear you say when you planted that 15 acres of trees they're now forest, that that used to be farmland?

A Yes, it did.
Q Since 1987 has the farmland on your Parcel B net increased or decreased?

A It's net decreased by 15 acres.
Q Staying with that structure, that little housing structure, what's the composite of it, how many apartments?

A Three apartments, each apartment has two very small bedrooms and a small cormon area.

Q Back when you first built it, let's see, back in 2006, back when it was first built, was the intent for it to be for migrant housing?

A Yes, that was the intent when it was first built.

Q Do you recall when you stopped using it for migrant housing?

A I do not exactly. I think we used it for four or five years for migrant housing. It might have been longer, I'm really not sure, but at some point we did convert it over to where it's now just full-time
housing for some of our employees.
Q Now, you heard in opening argument that Mr. Martingayle said something to the effect that those apartments weren't approved for occupancy, somewhere he said that, do you recall that?

A Yeah.
Q So talk through that, were you present back when those apartments were built and interactions with the county?

A So, 2006, yes, I was back at the nursery. I'll be honest, my father really needed help with the building of the apartments. I talked with him this morning and he had all the permits --

MR. MARTINGAYLE: Judge, I need to object based on hearsay, what other people told him.

THE COURT: Sustained.
MR. KAHLE: We know.
THE WITNESS: Sorry.

BY MR. KAHLE:
Q I'm going to hand you a document which I don't have copies of because it only came up this morning when he suggested that the county didn't know about it.

MR. MARTINGAYLE: May I see it first,
please?

## BY $\operatorname{MR}$. KAHLE:

Q Mr. Tankard, I've handed you a document, front page, back page. I'm looking for a title of it but, first of all, do you recognize that document?

A Yes.
Q And what is that document that you're holding in front of you?

A It's a printout of Parcel 2-3-B, which is Parcel B in these proceedings, that shows what was the appraised value for this parcel.

Q Towards the center of that page tell the Judge what it says relative to a well and septic.

A It does say it does have a well and septic.

Q And towards the bottom of the exhibit or the document there, do you see any reference to there being a building site acknowledged by the county?

A Yes, on the right-hand side of this piece of paper it does say appraised building of $\$ 104,000$.

Q And has -- back to that little building, has someone, be they migrant workers or in more recent years your employees, lived in that building since 2006, give or take, 2007?

## A Yes.

MR. KAHLE: Judge, I would like to move
that document into evidence as Plaintiff's 2. It reflects with respect to that building, contrary to opening argument, that the county does know about the building. The county knows it has a well. It knows it has a septic system.

MR. MARTINGAYLE: Judge, he's now testifying himself. If he's moving to admit that --

THE COURT: Any objection to the document?

MR. MARTINGAYLE: That's correct, Judge, I do not object to the document.

THE COURT: Plaintiff's Exhibit 2.
(Plaintiff's Exhibit Number 2 was marked for identification and admitted into evidence.)

BY $\mathbb{M}$. KAHLE:
Q Mr. Tankard, I've handed you like a three-page document which is a certified true copy of a 1987 deed certified by the deputy clerk of the Northampton Circuit Court. My question for you is, first of all, do you recognize that as the deed back when you and members of your family bought some property?

A Yes.
MR. KAHLE: Judge, I would like move this
into evidence as Plaintiff's Exhibit 3.
THE COURT: Any objection?
MR. MARTINGAYLE: No, sir.
THE COURT: Do you have extra copies?
MR. KAHLE: I do, yes, sir.
THE COURT: Do you need the witness to refer to it?

MR. KAHLE: If you hold that one, I'll give him another copy.

THE COURT: Okay. Plaintiff's Exhibit 3.
MR. MARTINGAYLE: Is this Defendant's, I mean Plaintiff's 3?

THE COURT: Plaintiff's 3.
(Plaintiff's Exhibit Number 3 was marked for identification and admitted into evidence.)

BY MR. MARTINGAYLE:
Q Now, we're not going to read this deed, Mr. Tankard, but first of all, are you the David B. Tankard, Jr. that's one of grantees?

A Yes.
Q Now, come on down, you see where there is
a Parcel 1, left-hand column, you see underscored it says Parcel 1?

A Yes.

Q And it's kind of hard to read. Do you see the third line it talks about designated as Parcel A?

A I see.
Q Now, do you personally own Parcel A at this time?

A No, my brother owns Parcel A.
Q Okay. The next paragraph where it says Parcel 2, do you see reference to property that has been designated as Parcel B?

A Yes.
Q Who owns that property today?
A I do own that property myself today.
Q Now, following down that 1987 deed, see to the bottom where it says together with an easement?

A Yes.
Q Now, I'm just going to highlight where it talks about a 30-foot easement and I want you to tell the Judge, when I say about that easement, what generated and tell him briefly the history that lead to that easement being expressly set forth in that deed?

A Okay. When the family acquired the property, the most direct route back from the property was to go through the easement that we made an express condition of buying the property. At the time that we bought the property the Babinskis owned Parcels A, B and
C. Parcel A being the one my brother currently owns. Parcel B and C is the property in question today. Parcel C being Mr. Monroe's current property. The Babinskis owned -- what I'm saying is that the Babinskis owned both the parcel that my brother owns and I own and they had no problem granting a 30-foot easement for the use and they knew it was going to be for a nursery and heavy equipment and --

MR. MARTINGAYLE: Judge, I object as to what he thinks somebody else knew.

THE COURT: Sustained.
MR. MARTINGAYIE: Thank you.
THE WITNESS: I'm sorry. Okay. So we did acquire an easement for the express purpose of getting our vehicles back from Parcel B to the nursery by the most direct route possible without spending anymore time than necessary on Route 183 or any other paved roads.

BY MR. KAHLE:
Q And of course I said it but it's got to come from you. I'll tell you what we're going to do, we're going to look at a plat that I think will further help the following questions. And I'll say, as I see in this 1987 deed, a reference to a plat and I want to ask
you if you recognize a plat that I'm going to hand to you?

A Yes, I do recognize this plat.
Q Okay. So what I've just handed to you is a plat entitled Plat showing survey of the Babinski farm, it is a two-page document, both pages having been certified true copies certified by the Northampton County Clerk's Office, you recognized this document?

A Yes.
MR. KAHLE: Judge, I would like to move this into evidence as Plaintiff's 4. THE COURT: Any objection?

MR. MARTINGAYLE: No, sir.
THE COURT: Plaintiff's Exhibit 4.
(Plaintiff's Exhibit Number 4 was marked for identification and admitted into evidence.)

BY $\operatorname{MR}$. KAHLE:
Q Looking at Plaintiff's 4, Mr. Tankard, now I can more accurately talk about north, south, east and west. Looking at the first page of this plat, talk through with the Judge where Route 183 is compared to the defendants' property and compared to your property, kind of highlight what we're seeing here.

A Okay. Again, Parcel B is the parcel in
question which is my current property. Parcel C is Mr. Monroe's parcel, his current property. And Route 183 is the road running east/west contrary to what my counsel said earlier, it's actually running east/west, not north/south. That would be on the southern edge of this plat.

Q And can you point out, can you read where that 30 -feet ingress/egress is denoted?

A Yes, that's noted inside the borders of Parcel B pointing to the 30-foot ingress/egress for Parcels A and B.

Q If you'll flip back to the second page of this exhibit, I see where it says Parcel A up there.

A Yes.
Q So -- and of course you read, the Judge read and you just noted that this ingress/egress easement is for Parcel A and B. So how does -- well, what is Parcel A used for?

A Parcel A is also completely for nursery stock. We're a growing a nursery production.

Q So how do plants or whatever products that come off of Parcel A, how do they get to this easement, this 30-foot easement?

A Well, in the middle of Parcel A you have a dirt road that runs all the way from Parcel B to the
corner where Parcel A is currently to those other noted paved roads which is Route 635. It's actually called Batchelers Branch Road and I think it's called Clear View Drive is the other one that goes all the way to the end of Parcel C there, but, anyway, from that corner there is a dirt road that goes straight to the south that then joins up with the easement.

Q To make sure I follow that, does
Parcel A plat have to come across Parcel B to get to the easement?

A Yes.
Q All right. Looking at Plaintiff's 4 I see where it says Parcel B has 79.25 acres; is that right?

A That's what it was back in 1987, yes.
Q And tell the Judge what's happened since 1987 as far as the acreage?

A Since then there is another piece to the west that I have, that I also ended up acquiring, that the family bought in I think it was '89 when we bought that other piece of property and that was another eight acres. So we did erase the property line between that eight acres and it's completely woods and we erased the property line between that Parcel B since I own both of them.

Q Does that, I think you said eight acres, does that, did that or does that contain farmland?

A No, it does not.
Q Looking still at this exhibit, Plaintiff's 4, back on the first page of that I see something shown as being the pond, is there where that irrigation pond is?

A That is where the irrigation pond is, yes.

Q I've handed you, Mr. Tankard, what looks like a five-page document, a certified true copy of a 2010 deed wherein you are being shown as the grantee, do you recognize this document?

A Yes, I do. Sorry, the wording was confusing me a little bit but, yes, I do recognize this document.

Q You had me worried there. I thought I handed you the wrong deed.

A No. I thought you did too. You are correct.

Q So make sure, did I give you a deed that is November 1st, 2010?

A Yes, I do recognize this document.
Q Okay. Thank you.
MR. KAHLE: Judge, move this into
evidence as Plaintiff's 5.
THE COURT: Any objection? MR. MARTINGAYLE: No, sir. THE COURT: Plaintiff's 5. (Plaintiff's Exhibit Number 5 was marked for identification and admitted into evidence.)

BY $\operatorname{MR}$. KAHLE:
Q Now, Mr. Tankard, we saw a 1987 deed where you along with other members of your family bought Parcel A and B and now I see from this 2010 deed you already testified that you bought Parcel B, explain to the Judge what happened leading up to 2010 that caused you to become the sole owner of Parcel B.

A Well, my parents divested themselves of most of the real estate that they owned and then it ended up being in the hands of me, my brother and my sister. We since, in 2000, what is this, 2010 we divided up all the property so instead of jointly owning several farms, we individually owned different farms and that's how I came to acquire $2-3-B$, Parcel B.

Q Then looking over to Page 2 of this deed, can you see the first full paragraph?

A Yes.
Q Without reading it verbatim, tell the

Judge what you received with your deed to Parcel B.
A So with my deed to Parcel B I also got the easement that granted the 30 -foot right of way that's being disputed today.

Q Now, let's talk about the farming operations conducted on Parcel B today. You testified earlier that the size of the farming operation has diminished and reduced by 15 acres since 1987?

A Correct.
MR. MARTINGAYLE: Object to leading.
THE COURT: I'm going to allow it for today's purposes, that question at least, Mr. Martingayle. We'll see how much more there is that could be objectionable.

MR. KAHLE: Since he already testified to that, I don't think I was leading him, just trying to move things along.

THE COURT: I appreciate it. It's overruled.

BY $\operatorname{MR}$. KAHLE:
Q Now, I think there's been maybe some pleadings that business has grown by approximately 25 percent since 1987, but to be clear, let's not talk about sales but in terms of acreage devoted to farming on
your Parcel B, has it increased or decreased since 1987?
A The acreage to farming has decreased.
Q Are you familiar with the best management practices applicable to the operation being conducted out on Parcel B?

A Yes, as a nursery operation we do try to follow or we do follow all best management practices.

Q What do you understanding those best management practices to include?

A A couple of examples are fertilizer. We take soil samples and then we apply it back to the fertilizer that we need. We try not to apply excess fertilizer. Main goal is to prevent any runoff of any water that would lead to the Chesapeake Bay which is what our nursery is fairly close to.

Another example is pesticides. We definitely want to minimize pesticide use. We do have to use some pesticides for our crop. Again, the goal is to only use what is necessary. We're scouting all the time so we know how much we need and where we need to apply it. We also are inspected routinely by the State of Virginia for pesticides, for pesticide usage to make sure we're applying where and when we have to.

Another example is ground water. We -one of the reasons we have ponds is so that we're not
impacting the ground water. The Eastern Shore is a single -- so we're minimizing the use of ground water, which we do have a permit to use some wells on the main farm, but on this farm we don't use ground water which is the whole purpose of using the pond.

Q How about laws and regulations that would be applicable to the commercial nursery operation being conducted on Parcel B, are you familiar with the laws and regulations that relate to what is going on out there?

A Yes, we try to follow all the laws. I mean, the biggest, one of the bigger laws is again the chemicals and pesticide applications and we definitely follow all the laws there. We teach safety all the time to make sure everybody is operating in a safe environment.

Q When your workers out there are applying pesticides or fertilizer in there a special type of garb they have to wear?

A Not for fertilizer because most of that is granular and distributed in little cups and it's not through a sprayer or anything like that, but pesticides, yes, they do have to wear protective gear. It's required. The labels on every pesticide is exactly what you have to wear when you are applying the pesticides.

Q To your knowledge, is the operation out
on that farm in substantial compliance with all best management practices?

A Yes.
Q And in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations?

A Yes.
Q Now, in addition to Parcel B that we've talked about and you of course pointed out the express easement to Parcel B, over the years, well, since 1987 I guess, was product being brought from Parcel A down through the easement out to the -- stop right there. I want to get the terms straight. On the other side of the easement from 183, let's give a name to this. Does David's Nursery own some property right across the street from 183 where the easement intersects?

A We own the property right across the street from 183. It's a little bit of a catty-corner. You have to go maybe 20 feet on the road to then turn into the nursery.

Q Now, what should I call that, is it your headquarters, your distribution center?

A We call it our loading area. It's where we bring all the plants back to. Everything that is done is being brought back there to be loaded on a truck to be shipped out.

Q Your loading area?
A Yes.
Q Okay. Thank you. Parcel A, are plants brought from Parcel A through Parcel B through the easement to the David's Nursery loading area?

A Yes.
Q And do vehicles servicing Parcel A, be they trucks, tractor-trailers, heavy equipment, do those go up the easement from 183 through Parcel B?

MR. MARTINGAYIE: Judge, I've got to object to the leading. First of all, these are long compound questions but he's loading the question with a lot of details and going basically isn't that right. That is clearly leading and I would ask that he ask open-ended questions.

MR. KAHLE: Judge, I never said is that right.

THE COURT: Sustain the objection. You can rephrase, Mr. Kahle.

BY $\operatorname{MR}$. KAHLE:
Q Do farm vehicles go towards Parcel A
through the easement --
A Yes.

Q And did I hear you say that various farm vehicles have exited Parcel A, gone through Parcel B and gone down through the easement?

MR. MARTINGAYLE: Judge, object to the leading.

THE COURT: Sustained. Rephrase.

BY MR. KAHLE:
Q Tell me how vehicles leaving Parcel A get down to the loading center.

A They go through Parcel B through the easement to get to the loading area.

Q Thank you. Was product brought from a separate farm, not from Parcel A, not from Parcel B, but from a separate farm through the easement?

A Yes, product was brought from farm tax map number 8-A-7, I think, which is the farm to the west and that product, I think it's 24 acres of farmland there and we do bring farm product back from there through the easement also.

Q Are you claiming the right to use that pursuant to your, pursuant to the easement pertinent to Parcel B?

A When we initially bought it, we owned 8-A-7 and we already previously owned this piece of
property and the Babinskis and us, yes, we believed that that easement would apply to this even though it was not specifically named in the deed.

Q Okay. Let's go to the borrow pit. Have you ever operated a borrow pit on Parcel B?

A No.
Q Have you ever hauled sand that was taken from Parcel B through the easement?

A It has happened in the past. If you look at the photographs, you'll see the white sand next to the pond and that sand was hauled out of there. I don't think anything has been hauled out of there in several years, before, certainly before Mr. Monroe bought his piece to the best of my knowledge.

Q If I didn't hear you say it, where did that sand come from?

A It was dug -- so when we dig a pond, we always end up with sand and dirt that's left over from the pond and we use that sand and dirt to fill in roads, repair roads on the nursery and other parts of the nursery.

Q And there's the reference to a pond, the pond we saw that's Plaintiff's 4.

A Yes, the pond and plat it's shown on the west side, on the west side of 2-3 Parcel B.

Q Blasting, has blasting ever occurred on Parcel B?

A No, never.
Q Is there any reason you would blast something on Parcel B?

A No, we have never blasted. I have no idea where that is coming from.

Q Prior to this legal proceeding did the defendant ever complain about hearing blasting coming from Parcel B?

A $\quad$ No.
Q I've seen reference and heard in opening argument that somehow there was a bullet shot in the defendants' house, have you heard that statement?

A I just saw it in the pleadings. I don't know anything about that.

Q Have the plaintiffs, have the defendants ever explained to you or told you anything about that that somebody somehow from somewhere shot a bullet into their house?

A No.
Q Have you ever received a complaint from the defendants about some vehicles coming and going through the easement that are blowing their horns at odd hours?

A
I have not heard that complaint, no. If anything, we have told our employees to be circumspect if possible with Mr. Monroe. We told them to avoid him whenever he's physically blocking the easement, which he has done in the past, that they take the long way around to not confront Mr. Monroe and that's David's Nursery has told all of its employees.

Q Do I understand one time over the years there was a hydraulic leak from one vehicle?

A Yes, that happened this spring actually and it happened on the easement shortly right here with 183. A different neighbor, not Mr. Monroe, and I did call DEQ to explain about it. The size of the leak was four gallons. Reporting requirement is 25 gallons, so we're well below any reporting requirements. DEQ did come to investigate and I have emails that they are satisfied with our response and cleanup. I also have receipts where we took the contaminated waste to a disposal facility I think in Chesapeake.

Q So other than one oil leak, were there any other instances any of the vehicles coming and going across this easement leaked oil?

A Not that I'm aware of. Could it have happened in 34 years, it might have but I know of no other location of oil.

Q We've talked about, there's a reference to you maintaining a migrant labor camp on your property. Now, other than those apartments you testified about before, any other housing on your property or has there been any other housing where migrant workers lived?

A No, just that one three room or three apartment with six bedrooms.

Q The dirt road, the dirt road that runs down easement, how wide is the actual dirt road part?

A The dirt road part is actually 20 feet wide. The cleared area is probably the whole 30 feet wide I would say. I just actually walked it off this morning but the dirt part of it is probably 20 feet I would say. Tractors are meeting each other, which is the reason why we got a 30-foot easement so they could past each other and they probably do go off, one of them would have to go off the road.

Q To your knowledge have vehicles ever strayed beyond the 30-foot width?

A No.
Q Do you curse or yell at Mr. Monroe?
A No.
Q Does he ever curse or yell at you?
A Yes.
Q One time, more than one time?

A Only one time.
Q Mr. Tankard, I've handed you a multipage document. Up top it's labeled David's Nursery, LLC. It says compiled timeline regarding Christopher Monroe and right of way to Concord Farm, do you recognize this document?

A Yes.
Q Tell the Judge briefly what this document is?

A Well, all this started back on February 5th of 2020 is when it started. My brother and I realized it could be an issue at some point in the future so we took notes on our computer, a Microsoft word document, and every time there was an encounter or interaction with Mr. Monroe that we were aware of or something that he may have done or anything to do with the right of way, we made notes of it on the computer. It probably is not complete. There are probably interactions that are not included on here because they may not have been reported to the office.

MR. KAHLE: Judge, I can move that into evidence as Plaintiff's 6 I believe.

THE COURT: Any objection?
MR. MARTINGAYLE: Yes, sir, multiple. He
has not identified this as something that he
wrote. He used the word "we" in terms of somebody else participating in this. It's just a bunch of self-serving statements. It's not an official business record. It's simply some sort of diary or log perhaps having numerous authors. There's just no basis for this coming in, Judge, and it clearly is more prejudicial than it is probative.

MR. KAHLE: I'll lay some more foundation, Judge.

BY MR. KAHLE:
Q I think I heard you testify but maybe I didn't because Mr. Martingayle didn't, where is this document, where was this document maintained?

A It was maintained on an office computer on our server drive and, yes, entries were made by me and my brother. We're the only two that made entries into this document.

Q And did you print this document off of your corporate computer?

A Yes.
Q And was this document on the computer maintained in the ordinary course of business?

A Yes.

MR. KAHLE: It's a business document. It's his business. He's testified this document came out of his business computer and it was document maintained in the ordinary course of business.

THE COURT: Mr. Martingayle.
MR. MARTINGAYLE: Judge, simply having something on a business computer that you're planning to use for litigation purposes later on with entries by a couple different people doesn't make it a business record used in the ordinary course of conducting of business. It's not a business record and it's not within the exception to the rule, so I would ask that you exclude this.

THE COURT: Mr. Kahle.
MR. KAHLE: Well, obviously I disagree. He's testified it's maintained. He's testified it was maintained back when he started having issues with Mr. Monroe about the right of way. The right of way is something that the business uses to bring products back and forth across the easement. So it's a business interest to preserve the use of this right of way. There's nothing else that could be done to establish this
is a corporate document that was generated over time.

THE COURT: I'm going to sustain the objection to the admissibility of the document. Some of the information in the document may or may not otherwise be admissible through this witness.

MR. KAHIE: Sure.

BY $\mathbb{M}$. KAHLE:
Q Mr. Tankard, look at the document in front of you there and I'm not going to have you read through all of these but looking at the entry for February 5th, 2020 --

MR. MARTINGAYIE: Judge, if I may be heard on this issue, I think the proper way for him examine this witness is to first ask him what he recalls of his memory and then if he needs to have something to refresh his recollection, that's the point at which he can start looking at entries but this is not the right way. He just handed him a self-serving diary or a log and then he's going to walk him through it. That's both leading and it's not proper use of a refreshment document.

## BY MR. KAHLE:

Q Mr. Tankard, can you recall all of the encounters between, with Mr. Monroe since February 5th of 2020?

A No.
Q Do you need something to help refresh your recollection?

A Yes, it would definitely help. I can recall some of them but I'm not able to recall all of them.

Q Then do this, looking at the document I've given you to the extent to refresh your recollection, look through the entries and then tell the Judge about the different events that happened that you had firsthand knowledge of back at the time but with respect to which you're now being refresh looking at this document. Okay?

A Yes, sir.
Q So go ahead.
A
Our first interaction with Mr. Monroe was on February 5th, according to this document, 2020. I would not recall the exact date but I would remember February of 2020. Mr. Monroe first called David's Nursery to talk to me about the use of the right of way, at that time he felt -- from right then was the first
notification that he felt like the right of way was being abused because of the heavy traffic and heavy equipment that was using the right of way.

I was not in the office at the time. My brother did tell me that he talked to Mr. Monroe and even offered to plant plants to help reduce the impact. Mr. Monroe said the only thing he would be happy with was if we stopped using heavy equipment on the right of way. So that's my recollection of the February 5th encounter.

Q Now, look through the document and look through it and then when you see an entry that reflects and refreshes your memory as to an encounter you personally had with Mr. Monroe.

A My personal encounter with Mr. Monroe was February 27th of 2020. Again, he called to complain about the noise made by David's Nursery use of the right of way. I did talk to Mr. Monroe at that time. I did not give in on the use of the right of way. I said it's been a right of way for a long time and we plan to keep using it. He did get very upset and that was basically the end of it. He didn't want to hear that we planned to keep using the right of way.

My next personal encounter with Mr. Monroe was in March, March 9th of 2020. That's our one face-to-face encounter. He was personally -- this is his
actual blockage of the right of way was in March of 2020. He was standing in the middle of the road and would not let nursery vehicles use the right of way. I did drive over to talk to Mr. Monroe.

I told him he needed to get out of the right of way, that it was a legal right of way. We've used it for a long time just like I told him on the phone. He proceeded to start screaming at me, said he couldn't believe I was coming at him that way. He was cursing at me. He got nose to nose with me while I was just standing there. I could feel the spittle from him he was so mad. He was really going off. That went on for a couple of minutes and eventually I left.

Then after that, I mean things went back and forth. He would do things. He's blocked the right of way. Many times he was physically in the right of way, our tractors would go around but basically it went on and off for two years which would be March of this year when he started cutting trees down to block the right of way. That's, anyway, he probably cut at least ten trees down.

We would tow the trees away. There were several different, many days of this. Eventually not doing it the next day, we'd wait a week so he could hopefully calm down. Every time we'd tow the trees away,
he would cut another tree down to block the right of way. That went on until April of this year. So it's March and April cutting down of the trees, probably five or six different times, probably towed ten trees.

And then in April of this year he first planted some stakes, poles across the right of way. We left them there for a couple of weeks. I think the exact dates are here but basically probably -- I can look it up real quick but this happened twice. It first happened, let's see, April, yep, April 17th of 2022. Mr. Monroe first blocked the right of way with his pickup truck and then he put some poles behind his pickup truck and then he moved his pickup truck so it was just blocked by the poles.

On April 28th of this year we removed those poles that were blocking the right of way. We removed them one day and the next day when we came back at there early in the morning, he had planted more poles back in the right of way. So that would have been April 29th. So the poles are still there blocking the right of way currently.

Q I've handed you a color photograph, Mr. Tankard, do you recognize this photograph?

A Yes.
Q What does that photograph show?

A That's Mr. Monroe's pickup truck blocking the right of way and the poles blocking the right of way.

Q To your knowledge, are those poles there as we sit here today?

A Yes.
MR. KAHLE: Judge, I would like to move that into evidence as Plaintiff's 6.

THE COURT: Any objection?
MR. MARTINGAYLE: No, sir.
(Plaintiff's Exhibit Number 6 was marked for identification and admitted into evidence.)
$\operatorname{MR}$. KAHLE: No questions more for me for this witness.

THE COURT: All right. Mr. Martingayle.
MR. MARTINGAYLE: Thank you. Judge, may
I come up and see the exhibits that are already in?

THE COURT: You may.

## CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. MARTINGAYLE:
Q Do you have Exhibit 1?
A Yes, I do.
Q Okay. Thank you. Mr. Tankard, I want to
ask you a few questions about Exhibit 1. First of all, that house right there that you see above this sandy-colored path, that structure is not there anymore, right?

A That's correct, it burned down a few years ago. I'm not sure how many.

Q So the picture is at least several years old?

A Correct.
Q Now, looking at this, you've got the paved road, that's 183 also known as Occohannock Neck Road, correct?

A Correct.
Q Below the house with the red roof is this path and that's the one, that easement, that's the one we're talking about, right?

A Yes.
Q And then up at the top that sandy-looking path, that is what is often referred to as the Johnson easement, right?

A I've never heard it referred to that and that easement is in dispute.

Q By whom?
A My parents said if you look at my deed, there's a lawsuit about that easement and my parents
say this is --
Q Hold on, I don't want to hear what your parents said. I just want to know -- is it an actual legal dispute?

A My understanding is that access may or may not be a legal access. Regardless of whether it's a legal access, I prefer the preferred means and best means of ingress and egress as this easement that's being disputed right now.

Q We've got video of the trucks and so forth of your, from your property going across that straight onto your nursery operation. You're still using it, right?

A We are using it because Mr. Monroe is blocking our preferred means of egress and ingress.

Q We'll call it, just give it a label and call it the Johnson easement. The Johnson easement gives you the same amount of access that you have if you used the easement that's a dispute here in court, right?

A It is not, it is not as good of an easement to get back from our property.

Q But you still have the same degree of access if you use the Johnson --

A I disagree.
Q Tell me how you have less access if
you're able to get onto --
A The nursery --
Q Hold on, let me ask the question. You've got the nursery operations on one side of 183 and then you've got the farm that serves the nursery on the other side, right?

A Correct.
Q All right. So if you use the Johnson easement you get to both properties and if you use the easement that brings us here in court today you get to both properties, correct?

A Yes.
Q Okay. So you have access if you use the Johnson easement.

MR. KAHLE: Objection, Judge. It has nothing to do with the fact that my client has an express easement that he's said repeatedly is his preferred way to get to that property. We're not here on an easement by necessity. Whether there was some other way off the property, it may or may not be in dispute, has no relevance to the defendants' interruption with my client's preferred easement.

THE COURT: Mr. Martingayle.
MR. MARTINGAYLE: First of all, I need to
object to the way that objection was just given. It was in the nature of an education objection to educate his client. It was more in the nature of argument. If the objection was relevance, he should have said objection, relevance. And so that's not proper and I ask that he not do it anymore. It is relevant --

THE COURT: The Court will ask that all counsel simply state the nature of their objection without making a speaking objection. MR. MARTINGAYIE: Judge, under the applicable standard for a temporary injunction the Court obviously weighs what the alternatives that are available are and so that's why we do think it is relevant that there are other access points and that's what I'm trying to explore it.

THE COURT: All right. The objection on relevance grounds is overruled.

BY MR. MARTINGAYLE:
Q So you admit that the Johnson easement is currently being use, has been use recently and can still be used, right?

A It is being used. I am not sure if it's a lawful easement which is one of the reasons I really
have to have this easement.
Q Has anybody to your knowledge attempted to stop you or your business from using the Johnson easement?

A No, but that doesn't mean they might stop us in the future.

Q I want to show you a series of pages and walk through them and see if you can identify what we're looking at and talking about. I've handed --

MR. MARTINGAYLE: And, Judge, so you can see what we're talking about and I'm not moving them into evidence yet. Just to follow along with the questions.

THE COURT: All right.

BY MR. MARTINGAYLE:
Q First of all, this first page, I think you and I both use reading glasses but the print is really small. All right. So do you recognize what this represents first of all?

A Yes, I do.
Q Does it depict -- let me show you my highlighting. Does it depict in this portion of highlighting right here lot or property B?

A What you have highlighted right there is
the property where the line got erased that was added to Parcel B.

Q Right, this is the additional portion that was tacked on to Parcel B to the right of that?

A Yes.
Q All right. So do we agree that this there added what looks like, does that say 8.5 or 6.5 acres?

A I can't read it here but I have seen it as 8.5 and 6.5 in different proceedings. I think when it was initially bought, it was assumed to be 6.5 acres and when they surveyed it, I think this number here is 8.5. So I think it was 8.5 acres when it was surveyed.

Q Okay. And then at the bottom still highlighted at the bottom says Occohannock Neck Road, that's the same SR which means State Route 183, right?

A Yes.
Q And then there's a skinny line that comes down the side. That right there is what we call the Johnson easement. It goes and connects to 183 and actually it can go straight across to your nursery operation, correct?

A That is what you're calling the Johnson easement, yes.

Q And you actually own this property.

According to this document there is actually part of the property you own that runs up to Lot B and both originally configured and expanded size Lot B, right?

A Again, what I have been told is that that Johnson easement that you keep trying to talk about -Q Don't tell me what you have been told. MR. KAHLE: Objection. He's testifying please.

MR. MARTINGAYIE: It's hearsay.
THE COURT: Is that an objection to the response?

MR. MARTINGAYLE: Yes, I don't want him to give unresponsive answers with hearsay.

THE COURT: Mr. Tankard, you can't tell us what somebody told you. So you can answer the question.

THE WITNESS: I do not think that that is a legal -- I do not know for sure if that is a legal easement.

BY MR. MARTINGAYLE:
Q What I'm getting at is this, according to this, that line gives a straight line that it connects up to Lot B, the original size Lot B, right? This right here, this is the outline of $B$, correct?

A That's correct.
Q Okay. So that line connects, where is the Johnson property, is it further up?

A No, the Johnson property is over here (indicating).

Q Okay. To the left side?
A $\quad$ To the left side.
Q But this line according to what we're looking at shows that that was actually part of, it's a little extra piece of property coming off of $B$ and then goes right down to Route 183, right?

MR. KAHLE: Judge, objection, asked and answered at least once.

THE WITNESS: I do not know if that is actually correct.

BY $\operatorname{MR}$. MARTINGAYLE:
Q So that's something that needs to be investigated further?

A Yes, but either way, the preferred means of ingress/egress, the most direct shot to the main road going into the nursery is the current easement that's being disputed today. And the main loading area is catty-corner from that easement directly down Mount Hope Road which is where the loading area is. What you're
saying, the back means which we have had several thousand dollars spent to get a permit from the county to put a culvert in so we could cross the road at this may or may not be a legal easement. It is still a more windy road. It comes in back behind the nursery and doesn't go directly to the loading area like our preferred means of ingress and egress.

Q All right. So I want to show you Exhibit 3. It would be easier probably to just look at this highlighted copy. You understand that it says here on the first page, the language, together with an easement to use in common with others having the right to use same and being for the use and benefit of both Parcel A and Parcel B for the purpose of providing ingress and egress to and from the lane herein conveyed -- oh, above that, you see the reference to the Johnson, in the Johnson by decree of court. So there was an easement established by a court order, right, you understand that, what we call the Johnson easement?

A I do not know exactly what that court order says.

Q I wanted to have you -- first of all, make sure that we can read this. This is really small writing but I'm showing you this right here, let's see if you can agree, that that paragraph at the top left side
of the document I've handed you says this, The Northampton County Health Department has not approved these parcels for any water supply or sewage disposal, and then it goes on to explain you need a certificate, do you see that language?

A I cannot even read that but if that's what it says.

Q Do you know whether or not there has actually been a certificate obtained after 2011?

A So that statement is incorrect. This certificate was before 2011 when we built the, when we built the migrant housing.

Q I'm going to get to that in a minute. Go ahead and turn to the next page of this document. And this is a blowup of the first page and I just want to emphasize this right here, it shows in larger form a circled, the direct access point coming off of B straight down to 183.

A That's --
MR. KAHLE: Judge, he's --
THE COURT: Whoa, standby, one at a time please.

MR. KAHLE: He's asking again the same question that's been asked and answered.

THE COURT: He's asking with regard to a
different iteration of the prior document at this point. Overruled.

BY MR. MARTINGAYLE:
Q Do you agree that what this document shows is that there is that lane coming off of B straight down on 183?

A Yes, but that's not our preferred --
Q I didn't ask you that question what you
preferred. I'm just asking for you to agree that shows this part of your property. Are you disowning this property, you mean you don't own it?

A I do not know if I own it or not.
Q Has somebody challenged your ownership? A No.

MR. MARTINGAYLE: Judge, I would move this in as Defendant's Exhibit Number 1.

MR. KAHLE: Objection, lack of
authenticity. This is not a certified true copy of anything. All the questions asked were did he recognize certain features on this but this has not been authenticated much less the subsequent two pages as an authentic document.

MR. MARTINGAYLE: It doesn't have to be, Judge, he's identified it.

MR. KAHLE: He identified what it showed. The surveyor isn't here and this is not apparently a recorded document where the clerk would authenticate it. Objection on authentication and hearsay.

THE COURT: All right. Mr. Martingayle.
MR. MARTINGAYLE: Judge, he identified this document and if it's identified by the witness it's no different. I'll ask further questions foundationally if I need to.

THE COURT: You can try.
MR. MARTINGAYLE: All right.
THE COURT: The objection is sustained at this point.

BY MR. MARTINGAYLE:
Q You see this page and then the two pages, do you recognize this as being a plat of survey applicable to the property depicted that you've seen?

A It looks familiar, I will grant you that.
Q All right. Do you see anything on that you think is misconstrued or misdrawn?

A Not that I recognize.
Q Thank you.
MR. MARTINGAYLE: Judge, I move that in
as defendant's first exhibit.
MR. KAHLE: Same objection, Your Honor. What he can or cannot recognize being presented with a copy of this uncertified unauthenticated hearsay document --

THE COURT: Page 2 appears to have Tracy Johnson's certification on it, the clerk of court.

MR. KAHLE: That's when it was recorded in the court. That doesn't satisfy the requirements for this being a certified true copy.

THE COURT: I'm sorry, I misunderstood your objection. All right.

MR. MARTINGAYLE: Judge, it's a photocopy of one of these records that was indeed a valid copy. There is no special rule applicable to deeds that says you absolutely must have it. That applies if you're trying to get it in if somebody won't authenticate it, doesn't recognize it or disputes it, then you use a certified copy.

THE COURT: I'm going to sustain the objection on this foundation, Mr. Martingayle. This witness doesn't dispute it but he doesn't authenticate it either.

MR. MARTINGAYLE: Judge, it's also a copy of their exhibit to their pleading. It's what they filed with the court.

THE COURT: It may be.
MR. MARTINGAYLE: Can I ask further questions about that?

THE COURT: You may.

BY MR. MARTINGAYLE:
Q Do you recognize this as what was filed as a part of the complaint that you filed in this case?

A Again, it looks similar. I can't say for sure.

MR. MARTINGAYLE: May I show the witness, this is what they filed in court?

THE COURT: Show it to Mr. Kahle, maybe he can stipulate.

MR. MARTINGAYLE: And, Judge, I might add that I filed a motion craving oyer and then was provided with the documents. And there was a court order filed recognizing the exhibits as authentic, that's how they were represented to me. So I'm using their own exhibit.

THE COURT: Show it to Mr. Kahle. Is
that document made a part of the pleadings, Mr. Kahle?
$\operatorname{MR}$. KAHLE: Yeah, I've got it here, sir. Just a minute.

MR. MARTINGAYLE: It should be Exhibit C.
MR. KAHIE: Judge, I've got my response to the motion craving oyer and I represent that is not the document that Mr. Martingayle is presenting to the witness. I can approach and show you my response to the motion craving oyer.

MR. MARTINGAYLE: This is Exhibit C we're talking about.

MR. KAHLE: This is a document --
MR. MARTINGAYLE: It is Exhibit $C$ that was attached to the complaint, plat of survey from Shore Engineering.

MR. KAHLE: There was a small portion of a plat attached to Exhibit C, not this document here. That portion didn't reflect a lot of what this property document is and, of course, that doesn't get around the certification requirements required by the --

THE COURT: If it's part of the pleadings, then it's already in, if it's part of the plaintiff's pleadings. Mr. Martingayle.

MR. MARTINGAYIE: On that basis I would ask you to receive it and give it the weight you think is appropriate. This is obviously not a jury trial, you can give it the appropriate weight that you think it deserves. I would note that the plaintiffs have admitted photographs not taken by them, they're years old.

And now I've got the witness admitting, shows a structure, for example, that was, it's not there and hasn't been for years. All that's in the record so I think it feels a bit outrageous for Mr. Kahle to be nitpicking on this give the exhibits that he's already put in.

THE COURT: Mr. Kahle has objected on the grounds that it is not a copy of the exhibit but it's an expansion of the exhibit that was attached to the pleadings.

MR. MARTINGAYLE: Well, it's the full version instead of the little tiny corner of it that they used. So we're trying to provide the Court with the full thing.

THE COURT: I'm going to sustain the objection. The portion that corresponds to the pleadings can be admitted, Mr. Martingayle.

MR. MARTINGAYLE: Well, Judge, I would
ask that you take, I don't have the, I don't have a photocopy of Exhibit C but I would ask that you recognize Exhibit $C$ as part of the record.

THE COURT: I'm happy to recognize that as part of the record.

MR. MARTINGAYLE: Thank you. May I approach?

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

BY MR. MARTINGAYLE:
Q Do you recognize that, sir, November 20, 2006, building department permit for the migrant housing?

A I have not seen it. Again, it looks like it was filled out by my father and mother.

Q It says David B. Tankard, that's not you?
A I'm David Tankard, Jr.
Q So you've never seen this before?
A Not that I can recollect.
Q Okay. Do you agree that in 2006, that's when there was a permit that was obtained to build migrant housing?

A Yes, I do agree with that.
Q Fair enough. You were earlier shown documents by your counsel that I think was a tax record.

I want to see if you can identify this particular tax record.

A In the top right corner it says 2-3-B which is the property of concern.

Q All right. And do you agree that at the bottom of the first page under building it says no building, you agree with that?

A I do not know where this record came from. The record that I printed out and provided to my counsel is what I believe is correct and what the county is showing.

Q I'll use that. Let me have that back. Is it your understanding that the building that is currently out there being used by employees was listed as a residence in county records?

A I do not know.
Q With regard to your calling them employees, are these W-2 employees?

A I'm not sure what a W-2 employee is. They fill out W-4s and I-9s to legally work for us. What is a W-2 employee?

Q So when you call them employees, what kind of employees are they, migrant employees or --

A They're full-time employees. Their citizenship status I'm not sure about. They do all fill
out a valid I-9 which gives them authorization to work in the United States if they're not U.S. citizens.

Q With regard -- how many are there, you said seven?

A Seven in the house, yes.
Q Seven in the house. And you don't know whether or not they're citizens currently?

A I do not.
Q In fact, you know that they're immigrants?

A I do not.
Q And how long -- when you say that they are full-time employees, do you mean they are year-round employees?

A Yes.
Q So for some number of years that building was used as migrant housing but now you deny that it's used as migrant housing?

A Yes.
Q With regard to the building in which they live, do you think there is a certificate of occupancy that allows them to live in that building?

A I think so, yes.
Q Why do you think that?
A Again, my parents did all the paperwork
for it and I would assume that they did. I talked to my parents this morning and you told me it's hearsay so I have nothing else I can tell you.

Q Have you ever seen a certificate of occupancy to the property?

A Not that I can recall.
Q We'll talk about -- Mr. Kahle mentioned something about sales number versus acreage that is farm, isn't it true that your business has increased by 25 percent?

A Yes, it has increased. The business itself has increased. Now, we own lots of farms so if you're talking about David's Nursery, LLC, it has grown by significantly more than 25 percent.

Q By how much?
A What standard are you talking about?
Q Well, David's Nursery, RLLP was established in 2000, does that sound right?

A That sounds like it's probably correct. The nursery was actually founded in ' 77 by my father and I was the co-owner at that time. At some point we did become a LLP and I was a partner and that may have been 2009, I do not know the exact date, and now we're currently a LLC and, again, I'm not sure of the exact date that that happened.

Q All right. And you described this online as being a family nursery with a background date of 1933, right?

A That is Tankard Nursery where my father, my grandfather initially with one of the brothers found Tankard Nursery. My dad left Tankard Nursery to start a completely independent nursery which is David's Nursery and that happened in late ' 77 .

Q All right. And according to the way you advertised it, it has grown to over 300 acres, growing over 250 cultivars of evergreens, insidious and perennial plants, right?

A Yes.
Q And how much of an increase in the past five years would you say that David's Nursery has had?

A Five years, probably 15 percent.
Q The truck drivers who go up and down that easement, they're not employees of your nursery, are they?

A Yes, they are.
Q Are they employees or are they 1099, independent contractors, do you know what their actual status is?

A Almost all of the drivers that I know are employees. We did have one person that I know was
harvesting soybeans on the farm that came through with a combine that I know Mr. Monroe accosted but he had permission to use the right of way to harvest soybeans.

Q I want to show you another document and see if you are able to identify this. This is a document that apparently indicates tax map numbers showing the different lots and then a series of Tankard names, all using the same billing address, Post Office Box 926, do you know what this is?

A It appears to be different pieces of property that are owned by my family.

Q And everybody uses the same billing address?

A Yes, because it is the nursery billing address and that is where we get most of our business mail. I do not, I cannot recognize all the tax map numbers but I assume a lot of these properties are used by David's Nursery.

Q Is it accurate to say that all of these use the nursery's address for billing purposes and for business purposes?

A Yes. Maybe not all but probably.
Q Well, they all have the same P. O. Box.
A Yes, David B. Tankard Family, LLP is
listed here is something -- some of that may be related
to the nursery but other than that, it is a separate entity that doesn't have, some of it doesn't have anything to do with the nursery so I can't use a blanket statement on all of these parcels, but most of them I would say, I would concede are used by the nursery.

Q All right.
MR. MARTINGAYLE: Your Honor, I would move this in as Plaintiff's Exhibit 1. With regard to the one --

THE COURT: Defendant's Exhibit 1.
MR. MARTINGAYLE: Defendant's. I had a trial two days ago when I was on the plaintiff's side, Judge, so I'm having a hard time. On the one that was not admitted, would you mark is as offered and refused.

THE COURT: I will.
MR. KAHLE: Judge, I would object to this coming in. Mr. Tankard testified that he didn't recognize all the properties in here. He recognized some, not all of them. I don't know where this came from. I don't know who drafted this.

According his testimony, it's at least, if not partially inaccurate, he doesn't know whether it is accurate or not to some parts. So
it's hearsay. It's an unauthenticated document prepared by somebody who is not in court. I don't know -- plus relevance as to the fact his argument is that these businesses had the same P . O. Box, I can't gleam any relevance to the defendants' blockage of an easement to Parcel B. THE COURT: Mr. Martingayle.

MR. MARTINGAYLE: Judge, it goes to the part of our theme that this is being used by the nursery. The nursery is serving more than itself. It's serving a whole lot of related family property.

THE COURT: The relevance, I understand relevance. How about authenticity?

MR. MARTINGAYIE: He doesn't have to authenticate it. He's identified what it is. He's identified this as a series of lots that are owned by the indicated parties. He doesn't know exactly where all of them are but he conceded that most of them are served by the nursery and all of them use the nursery's address and use that for business purposes. So I think it's entitled to the weight you decide to give it but it's certainly admissibility.

MR. KAHLE: Actually, that's not what he
said. He said some of those he doesn't recognize.

THE COURT: I'm going to sustain the objection.

MR. MARTINGAYLE: Would you please mark it as offered and refused.

THE COURT: I've marked the three-page document, the plat of survey and the, shown as the plat of survey from Shore Engineering Company, Incorporated, dated December 23rd, it appears 2011, if I can read it correctly, and the other two pages thereafter as Defendant A and this document I'll mark as Defendant B.
(Defendant's Exhibits A and B were marked offered and refused.)

BY MR. MARTINGAYLE:
Q Mr. Tankard, I want to get to a very particular issue, do you admit that the easement in question has been used to benefit lots other than $A$ and B, correct?

A One other lot, yes.
Q What is that one other lot?
A It's the one directly to the west of
Parcel B. that we have looked at here today or do we need to have another map?

A I can show you where it is on this document but it has not been authenticated but it would be over there (indicating).

Q Let me ask you about this one. So I'm going to use this right here for a moment. Are you able to identify what I just handed to you?

A Yes.
Q What is it that you are looking at right now?

A A map showing different parcels.
Q Do you recognize this as a map that comes off the county records?

A I can't say that for sure but it looks accurate.

Q All right. It does look accurate?
A Yes.
Q All right. And this part that we've highlighted here, what is that right there?

A That's property, the nursery uses that property also.

Q All right. And when the nursery uses that property, the trucks and tractors and so forth when
you're allowed to use the easement --
MR. KAHLE: Judge, I'm not following what he's pointing to --

THE COURT: You may approach.
A So, yes, 8-A-1 that usually goes out through Concord Wharf Road and then you can cut across.

Q It also sometimes cuts over and then comes down an easement, correct?

A We don't -- we tell our drivers not to do that. They should come down Concord Wharf Road.

Q Do you see this red circle in the middle?
A That is one -- yes, we do acknowledge that tractors from there do go down through the easement.

Q And what property is that?
A That is property used by the nursery that is owned by my brother.

Q That is $8-\mathrm{A}-7$ ?
A Yes, I think so.
Q All right. And then the highlighted part up and down the middle, that's --

A Parcel B.
Q -- Parcel B. And then this is the nursery highlighted down here?

A The main -- right down there where you see the buildings at the bottom is the loading area. All right. And does this map appear to be accurate in terms of the way the lines are related to the land?

A I don't know what this big black square is here but it appears accurate, yes. I can't say for sure.

Q So in terms of this highlighting, just to be clear, the highlighted portion is property owned by your brother?

A No, that highlighted portion is owned by David B. Tankard, LLP, which is owned by many members of the family, not just my parents, my brother, my sister, me and seven grandchildren, nieces, nephews and my children, the David B. Tankard Family, LLP.

Q And that parcel is labeled 8-A-1?
A I don't know for sure.
Q Do you see that?
A It looks like that, yes.
Q And then we've already identified the 8-A-7 as your brother's property and then the two highlighted ones here, does that say $2-3-8$ ?

A Yes.
Q All right.
MR. MARTINGAYLE: Judge, I would ask --
I'm going to ask to admit the highlighted one
because that's what we've been talking about for the record and we've got the red circle in the middle which he has identified.

THE COURT: Any objection?
MR. KAHLE: I'll just note I don't have a copy that's been marked up like he's marked it up.

THE COURT: It will be Defendant's Exhibit 1.
(Defendant's Exhibit Number 1 was marked for identification and admitted into evidence.)

BY MR. MARTINGAYLE:
Q Now, Mr. Tankard, you've already admitted you don't own A, right, that's owned by your brother?

A Parcel A is owned by my brother, correct.
Q And your brother has rights that relate to this easement, correct?

A Parcel A has rights in Mr. Monroe's deed but there are rights for ingress and egress through there.

Q So currently with Mr. Monroe blocking the easement, that affects the rights of the parcel owner who owns A and that's your brother?

A Yes.

Q Is there a reason why your brother is not a party to the case?

A Because Parcel B is a much bigger parcel and we are busy people and this is tying up a lot of time as it is so that is why I decided to take it just for Parcel B.

Q Do you understand that you cannot use this easement for other purposes and other properties other than those listed in the deed?

A I do not understand that.
Q So you believe that you are entitled --
A I --
Q Hold on, let me ask the question. You believe you're entitled to use this easement to serve purposes and properties other than those listed in the deed language itself?

A Only Parcel 8-7-A which we talked about before, the one you circled in red.

Q Why do you believe that you're allowed to use this easement to serve any different property or function other than what were listed in the deed?

A Because when this property was initially bought, we already owed 8-A-7, the family did. I mean, obviously it should have been included in the deed but they understood they owned Parcel C where Monroe's house
is.
Q I don't want to get into what the Babinskis understood according to what you think they understood. That would be speculation and hearsay. I'm just simply trying to understand if there is some factual legal basis that tells you that you're allowed to use an easement for purposes and properties other than those that are listed in the deed language?

A I don't know the answer.
Q But you acknowledge that that's an increase in the use of the easement?

A It has not been an increase in the use of the easement because it was used for that purpose from the very beginning.

Q The nursery business that you have exports to other states, right?

A Yes.
Q And I think we agree that David's Nursery has increased in expansion of the business since the beginning of the easement, right?

A Yes.
Q And there are multiple other lots that are used in this vicinity by the nursery, correct, more than just Lots A and B?

A Yes.

Q
And your nursery operation has used the easement to service other lots that are in the area other than Lots A and B?

A I've already testified that, yes, that we use it for $8-\mathrm{A}-7$.

Q Are you testifying that that's the only one and no others?

A Parcel A and B, those are the only ones that we are using the easement for.

Q So let's make it since time that my clients have been involved with their property. So starting in the year 2019 and coming forward to now, is it your testimony under oath that the only other property that has been involved in the use of the easement in that period of time is that single one that you identified here and no other ones?

A My belief is yes. Could a tractor have driven from another property and then have something to do on $8-\mathrm{A}-7$ or Parcel B and then come back through the easement, yes, that is possible.

Q So if the Judge grants you a temporary injunction here today, do you have any problem with it being restricted to the uses and the properties that are listed in the deed?

A And 8-A-7 I would want to use also.

Q Although you don't know legally or factually why?

A I do not have a legal answer except we have been using it for over 30 years.

Q And if the Judge grants a temporary injunction here today, do you have any problem with it restricting activities to only those which are properly zoned and legally permitted?

A I do not have a problem with that.
Q And with regard to the potential for a gate being put at the entrance to the easement in question, if you are provided with an access code or key do you have a problem with a gate being installed as permitted by law?

A A gate would be a burden on my tractors going back and forth, especially if you put it right at the entrance. Then they would have to stop on a busy highway to walk across to open to gate and then go back and go back through and close the gate. So I would be adverse to putting a gate especially at 183.

Q With regard to your employees who live in what was formerly migrant housing, do they make use of the easement?

A Yes.
Q $\quad$ So --

A Well, they were until it was blocked.
Q So is it your contention that those individuals who are living there, they all rent from you, right?

A They actually have free housing. Some of our more valued employees we do not charge them.

Q Okay. So with regard to them is it your contention that they have the right to make use of the easement?

A Yes.
Q Is there any reason why those individuals whose rights are affected are not parties to this litigation?

A Because I'm the property owner. I'll admit, I don't know all the legal niceties.

Q I want to show you now an email and see if you're able to identity it as an email that you wrote. The email is one page in length. It says from David Tankard, Friday, February 19th, 2016, addressed to info at the County of Northampton, do you remember this?

A Barely, it's been a while ago but I remember something about this. So it looks like it's probably correct.

Q Do you remember expressing the concern in here that the zoning might somehow affect your ability to

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remain in the AFD?
A It wasn't to remain in the AFD but it was exactly for this kind of purpose that we were concerned about the zoning, that we wanted to operate a nursery operation and they were changing the zoning to make it ES-R-A1 which we did not understand why that zoning was being changed and we requested to change it back to what it was originally which was just plain agricultural zoning just for this kind of purpose.

Q Well, you acknowledge that the zoning had already been changed at some point from AG to ES-R-A1 as stated in your email, right?

A That is what I stated in this email. I am not a hundred percent sure if that was a proposed change. I'm saying that their proposal was changing or actually had changed, I do not know. I do not recall.

Q For the record what is AFD?
A That's an ag forestry district which is the whole purpose of an ag forestry district is that agricultural can be done by right and it's understood that you can operate pumps, any sort of heavy equipment right on the edge of an AFD which would mean right next to Mr. Monroe's house at all hours.

MR. MARTINGAYIE: Judge, I would ask this come in as our next exhibit.

MR. KAHLE: And, Judge, what we've observed is an incomplete document. According to the document itself, it says a scan of current and proposed zoning districts for this land is attached and it's not attached so it's an incomplete document, Judge, I object.

THE COURT: Objection is overruled. Defendant's Number 2.
(Defendant's Exhibit Number 2 was marked for identification and admitted into evidence.)

THE WITNESS: I would make one other note, if it was changed to a residential zoning, it would cause more of a burden on the right of way because you could subdivide however many lots we wanted and then still be using that right of way.

BY MR. MARTINGAYLE:
Q Sir, are you familiar with this zoning application from 2016?

A I am not familiar with it.
Q You've never seen this zoning application that relates to the property that you own?

A Not that I recall. I'm reading it. I must admit I don't recall seeing this but it does seem to
go with the email. Yes, I do admit we did want other zoning to be agriculture.

MR. KAHLE: Mr. Tankard, there is no question on the table.

THE WITNESS: Okay.

BY MR. MARTINGAYLE:
Q On the second page of this document where it identifies open land with no building proposed we agree that that's wrong, right?

A Again, I don't recall seeing this but when was this done, 2016.

Q After your email.
A Right, there was one building there so this is an inaccurate document, that's correct.

Q And the one building that was there is the building that we've called the former migrant housing that is now the employee housing?

## A Correct.

MR. MARTINGAYLE: Judge, I would ask that you accept this as our next exhibit.

MR. KAHLE: Judge, the objection is the document Mr. Tankard clearly said he didn't recognize by somebody named Katherine Nunez who is a county administrator I guess it says but he
doesn't recognize it.
THE COURT: Objection sustained.
MR. MARTINGAYLE: I would ask that you mark this, Judge, as our next refused exhibit. And if I may just say for the record, this is going to be part of our argument why there should not be a temporary injunction. We don't have the benefit of a full trial preparation figuring out who is going to be able to identify what and be able to get all the witnesses. So just so Mr. Kahle is aware, I think the more he blocks me, the more I think he's making that case for me.

THE COURT: Defendant's C not admitted.
MR. KAHLE: So you're marking these Defendant's A, B, C?

THE COURT: Yes.
MR. KAHLE: Thank you.
THE COURT: I think we're up to C. Let me confirm that.
(Defendant's Exhibit C was marked offered and refused.)

BY MR. MARTINGAYLE:
Q In addition, sir, to the easement we
called the Johnson easement that gives ingress and egress for your nursery, are there other ingress and egress access points in other locations?

A We own a lot of land, not near where we're talking about that I can think of.

Q I want to show you this color map and see if you can identify that for us.

A Yes, that appears to be Property B.
Q Okay. Do you see the green boxes on the corners?

A Yes.
Q Would you agree that those green boxes represent additional access points that allow for access to the properties that we're talking about?

A Yes, I do agree.
Q So those are three more access points in addition to what we've called the Johnson easement?

A Correct, they would be substantially longer to go around via those access points but they are means of access to the property.

MR. MARTINGAYLE: I would ask, Judge, that this be admitted as our next exhibit.

MR. KAHLE: Judge, relevancy. He said repeatedly he wants to use the express easement that is the preferred access. It's not an
easement by necessity. The fact he can get off the property other ways is not relevant to this case.

THE COURT: Objection is overruled.
Defendant's 3.
(Defendant's Exhibit Number 3 was marked for identification and admitted into evidence.)

BY MR. MARTINGAYLE:
Q Now, I want to show you another document if I may. It's another photograph that's in yellow markings and see if you can agree on what this shows. So is the highlighting -- first of all, do you recognize what the blue dot is, what that represents, what area?

A Okay. The blue dot I guess is where -I'm sort of clueless. What am I looking at here?

Q Do you recognize what this represents, the line down the middle?

A I'm still not sure what I'm looking at, sorry. If you could show me 183 on here to orient me.

Q Do you recognize the dark line across the bottom as being 183? And that this is the easement up here at the beginning of the highlighting?

A The beginning of the yellow is where the easement is. The yellow is the easement. Okay. I can
see that. I guess the blue dot is covering up Mr. Monroe's house.

Q He's located in Lot C, right?
A $\quad \mathrm{He}$ is located in Lot C .
Q This is what I'm trying to show, do you agree that this yellow shows a path that has been used by your trucks and tractors and so forth to go on the route shown as part of what they've used the easement for? They used this path to do their various work and they come around as shown to access other properties and then to come back around to the nursery.

MR. KAHLE: Objection, Judge, form of the question. He specified that "you" needed to be distinguished between you personally and the business.

MR. MARTINGAYLE: Okay, I'm doing that, the business.

BY MR. MARTINGAYLE:
Q Do you recognize this as a path that business employees and truckers and haulers use from time to time using the easement and then conducting the business, cutting across the path?

A It does happen occasionally, it might. I can't deny that but most of the vehicle traffic from this
far point is going to use 183 and then go into the nursery that way.

Q Okay. If there is an injunction granted would you agree that nobody should be cutting across any other property and using it as any kind of a throughfare?

A Again, only 8-A-7 is the piece of property I believe should be part granted use through the easement.

MR. MARTINGAYLE: Judge, I would ask that this marked as our next exhibit.

THE COURT: All right. Any objection?
MR. KAHLE: No, Judge. I'm not sure what it shows but no.

THE COURT: Defendant's 4.
(Defendant's Exhibit Number 4 was marked for identification and admitted into evidence.)

THE COURT: Counsel, it's now one minute before 5:00 o'clock. What do you want to do? Well, it's now 5:00 o'clock.

MR. MARTINGAYLE: Judge, I don't have a lot more questions for him but obviously I have my own witness or witnesses who I maybe just calling one or possibly both of them. So if I'm getting the drift of what you are suggesting, we
may need to suspend this and finish this at another time.

THE COURT: We may, we may.
MR. MARTINGAYLE: Should we go off the record for a moment?

THE COURT: Yes.
(A break was taken and there was a conference in chambers.)

THE COURT: Let's go back on the record. Everybody standby. Thank you for conferring with the Court in chambers.

Counsel, I'm going to -- under the circumstances, we're going to get a new date. In the meantime, under the circumstances, on a temporary basis for a period of 60 days from today, I'm going to grant a temporary injunction to the plaintiff.

You may step's down, Mr. Tankard, sorry.
The defendants are enjoined from interfering with the plaintiff's use and enjoyment of the easement. Defendants are to remove all obstructions to the easement by

5:00 p.m., Sunday, August 21st, 2022, that's this Sunday, by 5:00 p.m.

As I mentioned, the injunction is for a
period of 60 days from today unless sooner modified or dissolved by the Court and I will require an injunction bond.

Do you want to be heard on that, Mr. Kahle, as to the appropriate amount?

MR. KAHLE: Judge, if I may suggest, given the fact that it's an express easement, a bond in the amount of $\$ 5,000$ would be appropriate.

THE COURT: All right. Mr. Martingayle.
MR. MARTINGAYLE: Judge, we have a counterclaim where we have asserted that my clients are suffering damages because of the manner in which this easement has been used and so we would request that the bond be set in the amount of $\$ 50,000$.

THE COURT: All right. Bond in the amount of $\$ 10,000$ for the temporary injunction.

MR. MARTINGAYLE: And when is that due? That needs to be filed --

THE COURT: As a condition of the injunction.

MR. MARTINGAYLE: As a condition.
THE COURT: Until the bond is posted, the injunction will not be --

MR. KAHLE: And can Mr. Tankard bring a check into the court and the court hold it?

THE COURT: You'll have to confer with the clerk about that, Mr. Kahle, about the mechanics.

MR. KAHLE: Okay. That sounds great, thank you, Judge.

THE COURT: All right. Will you prepare an order, Mr. Kahle?

MR. KAHLE: Yes, sir.
MR. MARTINGAYLE: Your Honor, may I state some objections on the record?

THE COURT: Yes.
MR. MARTINGAYLE: Thank you, Judge. We object on the following grounds: First of all, as the record reflects, we did not finish our cross-examination and the plaintiff did not finish his presentation.

We did not have any opportunity to present our defense evidence. The elements necessary for a temporary injunction were not established by the plaintiff and the plaintiff admitted under oath to using the easement in such a manner that it increased the burden on the defendants' property and, therefore, there is
just no basis in the law of equity for the granting of a temporary injunction.

We appreciate the Court's time today and we will be prepared to move forward as expeditiously as possible.

THE COURT: I'll ask the parties also to for scheduling purposes to confer with my assistant, Ms. Beasley, tomorrow to schedule the next continuation of this hearing.

MR. KAHLE: Yes, Judge.
MR. MARTINGAYLE: Do you want us to try and pick an afternoon or how do you want us to try to --

THE COURT: We'll try to accommodate counsels' schedules as best we can. I have -- I don't think my next duty week is until the end of September and so we'll have to try to carve out some time one day as we did today.

MR. MARTINGAYLE: And, Judge, one other thing that I think is important for the record, I indicated that my client intends to install a gate and that's pursuant to Code Section 33.2-110, Subparagraph A, and I believe you indicated back in chambers and I simply want to confirm that the issue of a gate is not before
you today but we don't want to run afoul of your temporary injunction. So as I understand it, you're not prohibiting us from installing whatever kind of gate would comply with the law, are you?

THE COURT: I'm enjoining any interference with the lawful or with plaintiff's enjoyment and use of the easement, that's the injunction.

MR. MARTINGAYLE: For clarification, are we prohibited us from installing a gate if we have statutory authority for a gate?

THE COURT: I'm not giving you an advisory opinion on that, Mr. Martingayle.

MR. MARTINGAYLE: I'm simply trying to keep my client out of trouble and I just want to know the breath of your --

THE COURT: I appreciate that.
MR. MARTINGAYIE: -- the degree of what you would constitute to be interference? I understand the poles are different because poles constitute blockage but if there's a gate, that would be allowed? I'm simply trying to determine whether you would view that as a problem. THE COURT: Mr. Martingayle, the issue is
not before me. I can't give you an advisory opinion on that point. Your client I'm sure will confer with counsel and receive the advice of counsel and assess the potential risks associated with in any way violating the terms of the injunction.

MR. MARTINGAYIE: In terms of what statutes might apply, you're not saying that we are prohibited from doing what statutes might expressly allow?

THE COURT: I'm not saying anything other than what I have said. That is, the defendants are enjoined from interfering with the plaintiff's use and enjoyment of the easement. That can be -- ultimately, if there's a controversy that arises as to if the defendants are interfering with the plaintiff's use and enjoyment of the easement, the Court will be called upon to resolve it, but I can't give you a prospective ruling on a hypothetical, which is one of the reasons I was hoping that counsel could be a little -- one of the reasons I was a little more hopefully about meeting in chambers but it turned out or worked out as it worked out. In any event, that's where we are.

I appreciate the reasons you asked that question, Mr. Martingayle, I really do but the posture we're in right now doesn't permit me to answer it. All right. Anything else for today?

MR. KAHLE: No, Judge. Just as to the timing of them removing the poles, I guess that's clear. I'll get up with the clerk tomorrow as to how we can post that bond as to what kind of surety. I think in cash will do.

MR. MARTINGAYIE: If I understand your order, they've got to do that before the order takes effect. If they don't get it done tomorrow, then they don't have to have the poles out until it's actually done.

THE COURT: Mr. Martingayle --
MR. KAHLE: I understand that.
THE COURT: -- I'm not going to give you an advisory opinion on that either.
$\operatorname{MR}$. MARTINGAYLE: Well, we've got to put together an order that reflects what you said and so I just want to be clear. We should all walk out with the clearest understanding that we can because we're going to be reducing it to an order. Are you going to do a handwritten order


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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA AT LARGE, To-Wit:

I, Jill Showers, Court Reporter, CCR\#0315051, Notary Public for the Commonwealth of Virginia at Large, whose commission expires March 31, 2024, certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript to the best of my ability of the Judge's ruling in the case of David B. Tankard, Jr. versus Christopher J. Monroe and Jodi Lee Reynolds taken before the Honorable Stephen C. Mahan, Judge.

I further certify that I am not a relative or employee of attorney or counsel of any of the parties or financially interested in the action.

Given under my hand this 29th day of August, 2022.

## Jill Showers

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Notary Public
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| BY MR. MARTINGAYLE: [17] | '77 [3] 41/17 99/20 100/8 | 2-3-8 [1] 107/21 |
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