

Dear Committee Persons,

We are writing in reference to LD 114 - An Act to Address Airboat Operations in the State.

**What We Are Comfortable Agreeing To:**

- We believe the State, County and Town should be the only entities to use airboats for any investigative or emergency needs.
- We have no qualms with (and encourage) the fisherman using traditional 2 or 4 cycle engines to propel their boats in the river.
- We believe that commercial and recreational airboats should be banned -at the latest- beginning January 1, 2023. This would give the current owners a wider window during which to use and sell their boats.
- From the present date until airboats are banned, airboat noise should be limited to less than 65 db, 24/7.

**Some of the Reasons Why:**

Over the past two years, airboats operating on the Harraseeket River have become exceedingly loud; these airboats interrupt the once-peaceful and quiet enjoyment of Freeport's waterfront - at all times of day and night, depending on the tides. How many Freeport residents are brutally awakened from peaceful sleep, or are unable to hear conversation and music at dusk? This affects us all.

This noise pollution does not only impact those living near the water but also thousands of Winslow Park campers. These campers have had front row seats to the crack of dawn 90+ db airboat noise since water access from the boat ramp is part of the park. We would all agree that we'd much rather have these tourists commenting to their out of state friends on the sounds of the wildlife as opposed to a 5:30 AM airboat wake-up call.

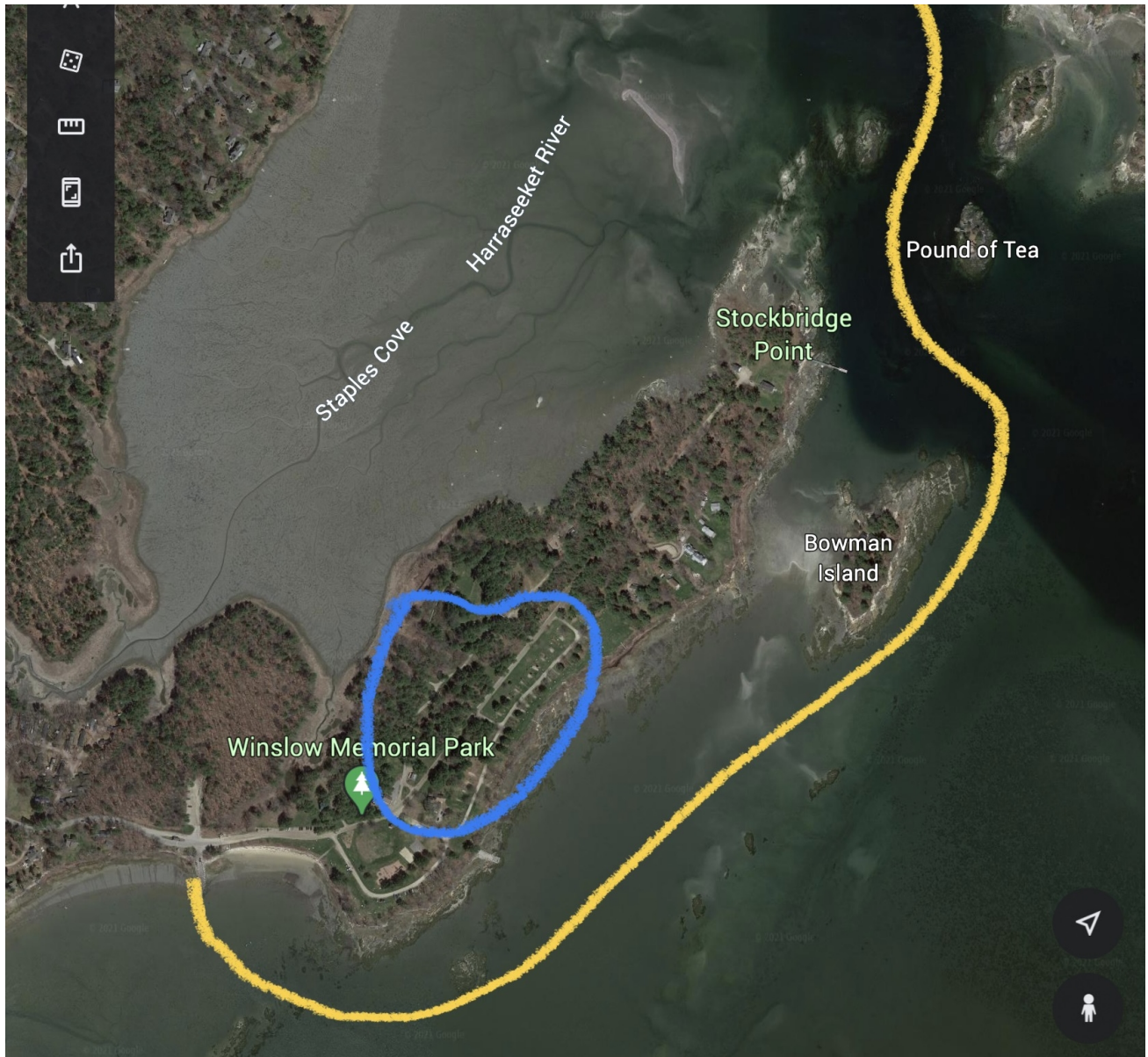
Besides the residents and tourists, the local ecosystem should be considered as well. For over the 20+ years we have lived here, we've enjoyed seeing ospreys and bald eagles soaring over the Harraseeket River. The noise levels of the airboats must be affecting the nesting of these and other estuary birds.

Lastly, access to formerly isolated clam flats is another environmental concern. If the current clam flats are weakening, then any type of recovery may depend on undisturbed estuary areas. It makes no long term sustainability sense to harvest these portions of the Harraseeket River.

Below the airboats path is in yellow, and Winslow camping area is in blue.

Thank you for all the time and effort the committee has spent on this issue and for hearing our concerns.

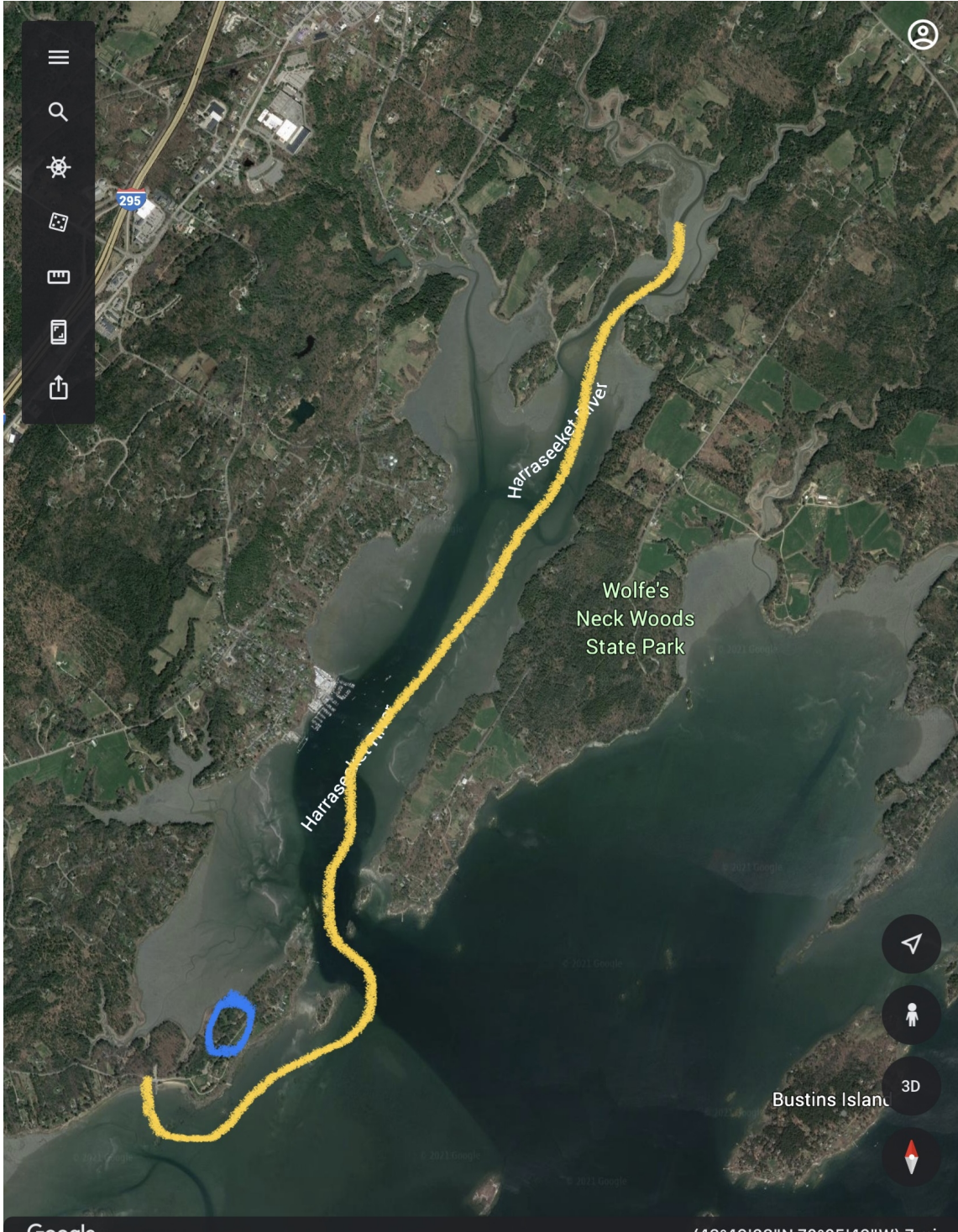
Tim and Wendy Whitacre



### Winslow Park Boat Ramp and Camping Sites

3 Sandy Beach Rd  
Freeport, ME 04032





**Winslow Park Boat Ramp to Harraseeket Clam Flats**

Tim and Wendy Whitacre  
Freeport

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