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To: Selectmen
From: Stu Marckoon
Re: Bloomfield Park
Date: July 21, 2017

Security - I spoke with Hancock County Chief Deputy Patrick Kane at his office this morning regarding actions the town could take with Bloomfield Park to discourage after hours activities. He had a couple of simple answers: set the park hours (they are already set by section 7 of the Lamoine Parks Ordinance – Sunrise to Sunset) and post them (they are-see sign below), and encourage the neighbors to call when they spot after-hours activity. He said they would respond to such calls, and it will likely take several trips before people get the hint.

He said a security camera is an OK idea but we might be shocked by what it records.

I went up to the park afterward – about 11:00 AM and observed about 5-vehicles in the parking areas, all parked very neatly and several small children under adult supervision in the water. The park was being used just as it is supposed to be. If I'd had a swimsuit, I'd have been tempted to take a dip myself! The park was well picked up and very orderly looking.

As a suggestion, in addition to the sign right at the entrance to the park, perhaps a white letter on brown background sign on the street sign post on Asa's Lane reading: "Bloomfield Park Hours: Sunrise – Sunset" might be in order. The other suggestion would be to write to Stacey Curtis, Lisa & Stuart Branch (they rent their home) and Linda & Jim Sperry to encourage them to contact law enforcement when there is activity after hours.

Water Quality – I am not sure what those who spoke at last night's meeting wish to test for other than the water being safe for swimming. There seems to be an environmental desire, but just what we ought to be looking for beyond E-coli is unknown.

E-coli testing is pretty easy – there are plenty of commercial products available, many for less than $15.00. If you more extensive testing with numbers, this will involve collecting and incubating samples, mailing them to a test lab and paying for an analysis.

Just looking at the pond and knowing a little bit about water biology, Blunt's Pond is in excellent shape. There is no evidence of algae (an indicator of failing septic systems), the water is very clear, and we've never had any complaints about anyone becoming ill after using the pond for swimming.

Should the town be testing the water for E-coli? Probably yes, but the water is not used as a drinking water source. Will testing create peace of mind for concerned neighbors? Possibly, but the desire to know the full scope of the environmental health of the pond is a pretty big undertaking and beyond the capability of town staff to perform.

If you wanted to go that route, I might suggest contacting the College of the Atlantic in the fall to see if this might be some sort of project they wish to take on.

Many years ago the MDI League of Towns sponsored water testing on several lakes on MDI. I believe that testing was somewhat associated with COA, and it got pretty costly pretty quickly and was eventually abandoned.

As for knowing what the source of water is for Blunt's Pond, I have no first hand knowledge, but I believe that those who say it is spring fed are absolutely accurate. That would account for the lack of algae as the springs would keep a constant fill and drain going. Identifying where those springs are located might not be very easy, or it might be. We have other spring fed ponds in town (the one across from Fire Chief Smith's house is a prime example).

I hope this is helpful. To summarize actions that are easily taken:

- Contact Hancock Sheriff's Office to let them know hours are sunrise to sunset and they are currently posted on the small sign at the park.
- Order and install a larger sign on the street name sign for Bloomfield Park Road
- Write to the three immediate pond neighbors to encourage them to report after hour activity.
- Procure e-coli testing kit and periodically take a sample