

**Citizens Against Government Fraud**

***The People’s Department of Justice***

At the March 2011 meeting of the Town of Kent Conservation Advisory Committee, chairman George Baum became agitated when it was mentioned that Tom Maxson of Highlands Historic Preservation, and Jim Baker of Plan-Kent, had been scouting a potential trail on the western side of White Pond. Baum stated that he did not want to work with Maxson, who had written about Baum’s cover-up of the graffiti vandalism on the Mt. Nimham fire tower, and his forwarding of Maxson’s emails reporting the vandalism, to the vandals themselves to tip them off about the pending police complaint.

Former committee member Wilma Baker, who is also a co-founder of PlanKent, asked, “Well George, did you do it?” Baum acknowledged before the group that he had, but that he didn’t appreciate seeing it in writing. Despite these admissions, he later proceeded to file a $1 million SLAPP lawsuit (“Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation”) against those who reported the vandalism to him, in order to intimidate and silence them as he pursued renewals of permits with the DEP and DEC.

This is just another example of government officials misusing their official positions, and the court system, to protect their own backsides. Several of the attendees reported this exchange to Maxson and others, and agreed to serve as witnesses in any litigation on the matter.