

APRIL FOOL

Oh, so you weren't fooled? Well, did you know that:

-- Town Council really did agree to cede control of the boat ramp side of the Harbor to East Coast Railroad in 1988, when three Council members were past or current employees of the Railroad;

-- The Central Park/old school purchaser, J. David McCormack, admits that his wife "had a relationship" with Town Manager Heather Arcos;

-- McCormack's original 2012 "unsolicited confidential proposal" to buy the school and park property was for only \$1, but he later raised it to \$10;

-- In violation of state law requiring specific details of closed door meetings, Town Council's secret meeting to negotiate sale of the park and school property was described only as an "Unsolicited Confidential Proposal";

-- Town Council sold the school and parkland for \$10 without soliciting or accepting any other bids. "No one else would have given us a better deal," insisted a Council member in 2012;

-- Town attorney Mike Sterling charged the town \$25,000 to write the contract selling the property for \$10. Sterling included a buy-back provision and performance bond in the contract, but Town Council deleted them at the buyer's request;

-- In return for McCormack's payment of \$10 to the town, the town gave McCormack \$41,000 toward building repairs;

-- In violation of Town Code, McCormack has never received a utility bill in the 15 months he has owned the school;

Historic District Guidelines do not allow a parking lot in the front of a building, which is where McCormack plans to put one. So McCormack claims the front of the school faces Plum Street. Mayor Sullivan, Council and Planning Commission member Natali, and Town Planner Testerman have all declined to identify the front of the building.

NO FOOLIN'!