MINUTES: Lee made a motion to approve the minutes of the 10/28/19 minutes, Fred seconded, unanimous.

DHAC Financials: Sold (3) books.

Annual Historic Gingerbread House Project at DES: Bill did a power point presentation and a walk with each of the two third-grade classes this year. One on Friday and one today. Donna went along today. Bill was a trooper – he had a bad cold. A few ideas were tossed about for photos we could enlarge for Bill to supplement his presentation (two-seater outhouse, hearse, old bandstand, band members and other artifacts…) Paula can help. Lee made a motion to provide the teachers with $50 again this year for supplies, Gail seconded, unanimous.

Hearse & Hearse House: Gail, Lee, Donna and Bob Boynton met with the Cemetery Trustees a few days ago. The DHAC still has strong ties to this project as it was done under their supervision. There are a few small leaks in the roof which appear to be along the ridgeline, possibly only happening when there is a driving rain. The Hearse was covered with a large sheet of clear plastic to protect it. The Trustees will make plan to have the building exterior cleaned and painted if necessary, along with dealing with the roof situation. Gail, Donna & Bob will return in the Spring to help clean and interior of the House and the Hearse itself. Fred Mullen’s son has appropriately pitched ramps for Hearse takeout and it was suggested these be brought to the Cemetery and measured so the exit process does not intrude on graves. Things appear to be in decent condition going into winter.

The Trustees would like a historic sign for the building. The DHAC can pay for it, since it’s town property. We have most of the information but still need the date the first hearse house was constructed in the Center Cemetery. Unfortunately, printed town reports only go back to the 1850s, so committee members will need to read the actual handwritten town clerk ledgers for the info. Luckily, they’ve been professionally preserved and are available to us when the Town Clerk’s office is open. We’ll set up a schedule that doesn’t interfere with the Tax Collector’s office during her busy season, as we use her office space. Donna will send an email to the Trustees updating them.

Second (?) hearse was sold for $12 to J.C. Mills in 1874 and a new one bought (used) from Nashua in 1872 for $345.

Wheeler School: Fred shared a topo legend with the Committee. The Town Clerk wasn’t able to find any old “Road Agent” records in the vault per se. Donna will email the members a copy of the 2006-2007 inventory for them to print. Each will highlight anything that could potentially help us with the Wheeler School or other topics. There were a lot of items marked for Deaccession that were never released. These could prove interesting.

DES 50th Anniversary will be 2022. Shelly feels the school would be receptive to having a display of our schoolhouse research, especially if it’s interactive. One idea would be overlay the old map so children can see “where” they would have attended school and perhaps walk to that spot with a parent and time it…

Town Bound Perambulation: Fred’s son sent him an email on 11/11 indicating that the town bounds had been perambulated in 1753 by William Stark, Caleb Page, Jr., and Obadiah Foster. Fred shared a little history about the chains used to measure back in the day…

Hammond Place, Gile Hill Rd: We have permission from the owner to use metal detectors and a date was set. There was once a “Scythe & Rifle Mfg” in that area…

Adjourn/Next Meeting: Lee made a motion to adjourn at 7:15, Paula seconded, unanimous. Next meeting is Monday, December 23, 6 pm Town Office.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Dunn, Chair & Secretary