



## New Hampshire Turtle Rescue Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, April 4, 2023

### Official Minutes

**Opening:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Drew Stevens at the New Hampshire Turtle Rescue headquarters and virtually via Zoom.

**Members Present:** Drew Stevens, Dallas Huggins, Jennifer Purrenhage, Joshua Megyesy (via Zoom), David Steinberg, Chris Bogard (via Zoom).

**Members Absent:** None.

**Others Present:** None.

**Approval of Minutes:** None.

#### **Old Business:**

##### Nonprofit Status

Stevens explained that during the IRS 501(c)(3) application process New Hampshire Turtle Rescue Inc. was classified as a private foundation. It's unclear how this happened; the IRS online application may have had a technical issue with their form. New Hampshire Turtle Rescue Inc. is still a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that can accept tax deductible donations. The main impact of this misclassification is that most grants require organizations to be a public charity and are not available for private foundations.

To be reclassified, certain forms are required to be submitted to the IRS as well as a \$550 processing fee. Stevens consulted with a lawyer who assisted in filling out the forms and recommended initially submitting the forms without the fee. The forms were quickly returned by the IRS. The forms were resubmitted with the fee; the processing time was stated to be six months.

##### Bank Account

Stevens reported that a bank account was opened with Northeast Credit Union. During the previous fiscal year, from the creation of the nonprofit (December 30, 2022) until the end of this fiscal year (February 28th, 2023), we have received \$871.40. Since the beginning of this fiscal year (March 1st) until today (April 4th), we have received \$342.67 in donations.

**New Business:** None.

**Additions to the Agenda:** None.

#### **Member Updates:**

Fundraising Update from the Treasurer



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Stevens and Huggins have been assessing the NH Center for Nonprofits' NH Gives fundraising event. There is a \$50 application fee to enter.

Stevens and Huggins have also investigated on-demand merchandising services, such as Bonfire, as well as services that will make items such as signs and bumper stickers.

#### Clinic Updates from the Executive Director

Huggins provided clinic updates. There are seventeen patients in care, most of which have been in care throughout the winter. The first patient of 2023 was an Eastern Painted Turtle that is suspected of having a disease, which is being tested for disease now. A non-native Ornate Box Turtle was received in early 2023 as part of an animal abuse investigation. Two more box turtles will be arriving tomorrow as voluntary surrenders.

Huggins also presented a new logo for the organization created by Erica Johnson.

Renovations for additional clinic space in the basement are starting April 20th. Nonprofit funds are not being used for any of the basement work.

Outdoor housing is needed for nesting females and for longer-term residents. Stevens is designing outdoor enclosures for nesting females, and Huggins will be pursuing getting items donated from Lowes or Home Depot. Megyesy noted Continental Paving in Litchfield has donated sand for nesting locations before, and it could be worth contacting them to see if they would donate sand for these nesting areas.

Steinberg noted certain groups at the University of New Hampshire may be interested in volunteering opportunities. Purrenhage advised there is funding for paid internships through the SOAR program. Huggins and Stevens will follow up with Steinberg and Purrenhage when designs are ready for the enclosures.

Bogard suggested that if New Hampshire Turtle Rescue Inc. has volunteers, a lawyer should be consulted to determine how to best protect the nonprofit, such as waivers and/or insurance options.

#### Board Member Application

Huggins noted that Sarah Kern has expressed interest in serving on the Board of Directors. Megyesy reached out to Kern for her resume, which will be distributed to the Board along with a nomination letter. Huggins will create an electronic poll for the Board to vote on Kern's nomination.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:04 p.m. by Drew Stevens.

Minutes Prepared by Dallas Huggins and edited by Drew Stevens.