



New Hampshire Turtle Rescue Board of Directors Meeting
Sunday, September 21, 2025
Official Minutes

1 **Opening:** The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Drew Stevens. The meeting was
2 conducted virtually via Google Meet.

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4 **Members Present:** Drew Stevens, Dallas Huggins, Jennifer Purrenhage, Chris Bogard,
5 Sarah Kern, Wendy Booth, Chris Carr, Karen Campbell.

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7 **Members Absent:** Joshua Megyesy, Sharon Martel, David Steinberg.

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9 **Others Present:** None.

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11 **Approval of Minutes**

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13 The board reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. There were no corrections
14 noted by the board.

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16 *The draft minutes from the August 24, 2025 meeting were approved by consensus.*

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18 **New Business**

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20 Box Turtle Headstarting Grant Discussion

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22 Stevens refreshed the board on the Fuller Foundation’s grant and NHTR’s history and
23 current involvement with the headstarting project in coordination with NH Fish & Game and
24 Zoo New England. Stevens suggested ideas like improving the box turtle hatchling
25 enclosures and maintenance, building soft-release outdoor enclosures, or purchasing GPS
26 trackers for better post-release data. Kern noted that the Fuller Foundation really likes it
27 when their grants help to create community engagement.

28

29 Huggins explained that the biggest bottleneck is managing the water changeouts in the
30 enclosures, and that automating this process in some way would significantly reduce the
31 time needed to perform the daily enclosure maintenance. If the upgrades could extend to
32 other patients/headstarts, that would be even better. Purrenhage asked if there were other
33 organizations that had faced similar challenges to see if there were existing solutions to be
34 considered. Stevens said that he wasn’t aware of any local organizations, but that there
35 were probably some in other states that could be reached out to for advice.

36

37 There was discussion about whether or not the funds should be used to help develop
38 better turn-key headstarting setups that could be easily deployed in places like nature
39 centers and classrooms. Huggins expressed some reservations about how far headstarting
40 programs would go in New Hampshire because there were many unanswered questions
41 currently regarding its effectiveness. Purrenhage pointed out that other organizations



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42 weren't dealing with nearly as many turtles as NHTR does, and that freeing up
43 organizational resources should be the primary goal for the funds.

44
45 Bogard asked if the funds could be used to improve the habitat of the two known
46 populations of Eastern Box Turtle in the state. Huggins explained that she didn't think the
47 grant amount would be enough to fund any major habitat improvement projects. Stevens
48 concurred and added that if the sponsoring organizations intended to improve the habitat,
49 NHTR could contribute to that project funding, but he wasn't aware of any such plans.

50
51 The consensus was to utilize the funding to improve the organization's headstarting
52 protocols and maintenance.

53
54 **Member Updates**

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56 President's Report

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58 Stevens told the board that NHTR was invited to have a booth at Ocean Discovery Day at
59 the University of New Hampshire, a two-day event on October 17th and 18th. The second
60 day conflicts with SELT TrailFest, so NHTR would only potentially be there for the Friday
61 portion. Stevens said that he would follow up via email with more information and that he
62 would accept the invitation if there were a couple of volunteers available to help.

63
64 Fundraising Report

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66 Stevens noted that he intended to organize a fundraising planning meeting with Campbell
67 and Carr soon to begin preparing for Giving Tuesday and the holiday season.

68
69 Treasurer's Report

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71 Stevens informed the board that Martel could not attend the meeting, but that they were
72 both still working on getting the bookkeeping software quirks ironed out, but that they were
73 making good progress and suggested that they may finally be finished with that project by
74 the next meeting. Stevens also told the board that he was planning to begin a budgeting
75 discussion in the upcoming meetings, and that he intended it to be worked on over multiple
76 meetings rather than one potentially long meeting.

77
78 Executive Director's Report

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80 Huggins presented current patient and hatchling numbers, and discussion followed
81 regarding the unusual patient intake patterns compared to previous years. She also noted
82 that she felt like there weren't as many Spotted Turtles this year as in prior years. Huggins
83 and Purrenhage exchanged ideas on how that data could help motivate population studies.



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85 Purrenhage brought up the possibility of applying for Lamprey River Advisory Committee
86 (LRAC) research funding to carry out a 25-year re-survey of turtle populations along the
87 Lamprey originally performed by David Carrol in 1998.

88

89 Stevens mentioned that the Spotted Turtle had been petitioned for federal endangered
90 status in 2012, but that just a couple of weeks prior the US Fish & Wildlife service released
91 their decision declining to list the species as endangered. Purrenhage and Bogard asked
92 about the justification provided in the decision, which Stevens explained mainly relied on
93 habitat-based arguments, but that he had only skimmed the decision at that point and
94 would send a link to it with his meeting follow-up email.

95

96 Huggins thanked Booth for her volunteer coordination efforts and mentioned the positive
97 interactions between new volunteers and having a cohesive crew of UNH students on
98 Fridays. Also thanked Campbell for her time spent in the clinic helping with patient exams.

99

100 **Other**

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102 Stevens reminded the board that the SELT TrailFest event would be held on October 18th
103 and encouraged more volunteers. Booth noted that she and clinic volunteer Trudi would be
104 helping out, and Stevens also added that Steinberg would be at the event representing
105 LRAC.

106

107 **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

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109 Minutes prepared by Drew Stevens and edited by Wendy Booth