



**New Hampshire Turtle Rescue Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Sunday, October 19, 2025**  
**Official Minutes**

1 **Opening:** The meeting was called to order at 10:03 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, David Steinberg,  
5 Sarah Kern, Wendy Booth, Chris Carr, Sharon Martel.

6  
7 **Members Absent:** Joshua Megyesy, Chris Bogard, Karen Campbell.

8  
9 **Others Present:** None.

10

11 **Welcome**

12

13 Stevens welcomed the board and shared highlights from the last talk of the year, given to  
14 the Seacoast Beekeepers Association, and the last outreach event of the year at SELT's  
15 Trailfest. He indicated that the events yielded good donations and good conversations with  
16 landowners and others about turtle conservation.

17

18 **Approval of Minutes**

19

20 The board agreed to table the approval of minutes from the September meeting because  
21 there had not been adequate time to review them.

22

23 Steinberg raised a question regarding voting on minutes when a board member was absent  
24 from the original meeting, asking if abstention is preferred or if voting is acceptable after  
25 review. Stevens clarified his personal practice of voting on minutes even when absent,  
26 provided he has read them and confirmed typographical accuracy, trusting that present  
27 members verified the content. Stevens stated that it is up to each individual to decide  
28 whether to abstain or vote in such situations.

29

30 **Officer and Member Updates**

31

32 President's Report

33

34 Stevens provided an update on the facility, noting that floor renovations are underway using  
35 personal funds to prepare for constructing better enclosures for long-term residents,  
36 addressing the need for expansion and more semi-permanent living spaces.

37

38 Executive Director's Report

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40 Huggins highlighted the contributions of volunteers and talked about turtle project  
41 collaborations between volunteers in different fields. She also discussed some of the new



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42 ways that volunteers were being involved in operations, such as assisting with terrestrial  
43 patient/resident food prep.

44  
45 Huggins reported that some of the painted turtle hatchlings from this season would be  
46 raised over the winter in classroom programs led by the Harris Center, and some will be  
47 raised by Squam Lakes Natural Science Center as well.

48  
49 Huggins also noted that a supporter who is a classroom instructor will be taking in two  
50 painted turtle residents and two musk turtle residents soon. Certificates of Veterinary  
51 Inspection have been issued for these residents, and they will be transferred in the coming  
52 weeks.

53  
54 Huggins ended by reiterating the high number of intakes for the year, and that a significant  
55 number of turtles had been admitted since the last board meeting on September 24<sup>th</sup>,  
56 many of them being large snapping turtles. She mentioned that UNH had been able to take  
57 some of the deceased patients for educational and training purposes, including mounting  
58 the specimen. Huggins indicated that these prepared specimens would be given back to  
59 NHTR to be used in education and outreach efforts.

60  
61 Treasurer's Report

62  
63 Martel delivered her first treasurer's report, stating that the accounting software glitches  
64 have mostly been resolved, with transactions processed up to August 31st. She reported a  
65 net revenue of \$12,761.3 and a checking account balance of \$25,4761 as of August 31st,  
66 which Stevens noted included recent grant funds not yet expended. Martel confirmed that  
67 total donations from March through August 31st amounted to \$47,794, with additional  
68 revenue from charitable gaming (\$1,282), program revenue (\$1,266), and product sales  
69 (\$480), totaling a gross profit of \$54,700 and in-kind donations of \$3,900.

70  
71 Fundraising Report

72  
73 Stevens highlighted the successful fundraising efforts this year, noting that total gross  
74 revenue since March exceeded \$50,000. Stevens, Carr, and Campbell are planning a Giving  
75 Tuesday campaign, a national giving day, to secure additional funding to support  
76 overwintering patients. Stevens expressed optimism that these fundraising successes are  
77 building a strong foundation for an eventual capital campaign to acquire a dedicated  
78 property for the clinic and an education center.

79  
80 Carr suggested a board matching donation campaign for Giving Tuesday this year, similar  
81 to the NH Gives campaign in June. Stevens supported the idea, emphasizing that matching  
82 donations encourage public contributions and that while board members are encouraged



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83 to contribute what they can, they should not feel undue pressure to do so. Stevens also  
84 invited board members to connect them with businesses that might be interested in  
85 sponsoring a Giving Tuesday donation match.

86

87 Other Member Updates

88

89 Carr inquired about Stevens and Huggins' financial contributions to the rescue, specifically  
90 concerning household expenses. Stevens confirmed that they primarily cover electricity  
91 bills and the space, with Huggins adding that they also contribute a small amount to  
92 groceries. Stevens noted that their monthly electricity bills range from \$700 to \$900, which  
93 they have been covering, and mentioned plans to install monitoring equipment to  
94 accurately track electricity consumption attributable to the rescue's operations.

95

96 Martel suggested that the electricity costs covered by Stevens and Huggins should be  
97 recorded as in-kind donations. After discussion and input, the board decided to make 80%  
98 of past electricity contributions (from March) as in-kind donations. Going forward, starting  
99 with the October bill, the nonprofit will reimburse Stevens and Huggins for 80% of the  
100 monthly electricity bill, with the reimbursement conducted via check.

101

102 Stevens will look into the differences in energy usage from before and after organizational  
103 activities began to establish whether 80% is a reasonable amount to cover the electricity  
104 bill. Stevens expressed appreciation for the board taking up this issue again and acting on  
105 it, and that the discussion and its inclusion in the meeting minutes assuaged his  
106 apprehensions about being reimbursed by the organization for these expenses and the  
107 appearance of any personal benefit.

108

109 Huggins also added a brief update on a mini-documentary project that NHTR has been  
110 involved with, noting that it did not secure grant funding but has resulted in excellent  
111 promotional material. The filmmaker, Ben, is connecting with organizations like Mongabay  
112 to promote the video, which Stevens described as a five-minute video with good  
113 cinematography that effectively captures the rescue's work. Stevens clarified that the grant  
114 application was submitted by the filmmaker, not directly by the rescue. Huggins indicated  
115 that she would distribute a link to the video to the board following the meeting.

116

117 **New Business**

118

119 Lamprey River Advisory Committee Project Grants Discussion

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121 Steinberg provided a comprehensive overview of the Lamprey River Advisory Committee  
122 (LRAC), explaining their dual functions of advising on projects within the Lamprey River  
123 corridor and managing funds from the National Park Service. Steinberg also highlighted two



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124 grant opportunities: a research grant up to \$20,000, suitable for projects like GPS tracking  
125 of turtles, and a community grant around \$7,500 for outreach events or public art.

126  
127 Stevens opened the floor for brainstorming ideas for LRAC grants in both the research and  
128 community grant programs. Steinberg reiterated the committee's enthusiasm for funding  
129 turtle-related projects, suggesting ideas such as purchasing GPS trackers for released  
130 turtles or re-surveying turtle populations along the Lamprey River to follow up on David  
131 Carroll's historical efforts. Purrenhage mentioned that she and Steinberg had been  
132 discussing the re-survey project for two years, but previous attempts coincided with  
133 uncertain funding periods, and now seemed to be a much better time to pursue such an  
134 initiative.

135

136 *LRAC Research Project Grants Discussion*

137

138 Steinberg informed the group about David Carroll's detailed report, which includes hand-  
139 drawn maps of turtle nesting sites and areas for specific turtle species within the Lamprey  
140 River Advisory Committee's jurisdiction. He noted that this resource has been digitized and  
141 could be central to a project involving re-surveying, potentially looping in Megyesy and  
142 Carroll for design and planning ideas. Purrenhage supported this, suggesting that the  
143 project could also include a community outreach component to display original and re-  
144 surveyed records, and that multiple grants might be used to support the effort.

145

146 Huggins discussed a previous plan with UNH Veterinary Diagnostics Lab for eDNA data  
147 collection and disease testing for turtles. This project, which is currently stagnant, seeks to  
148 identify diseases in environments, determine turtle origins, and test actual patient  
149 diseases, with a significant incentive being to find a path to release for numerous currently  
150 non-releasable turtles. Purrenhage clarified that environmental testing would involve eDNA  
151 testing of water to detect pathogens like adenoviruses, and that testing for origin would  
152 help understand if current turtles are from the New Hampshire populations given the  
153 increasing prevalence of poaching in surrounding states.

154

155 Steinberg indicated that several projects, including the David Carroll re-sampling,  
156 environmental testing, and GPS tracking, are fundable and that pursuing one does not  
157 preclude others. He emphasized the value of the David Carroll re-sampling for  
158 understanding changes in the turtle landscape over the last 30 years and for community  
159 engagement. Stevens and Steinberg highlighted the potential for grants to fund GPS  
160 transmitters for turtles to track movement patterns, especially for rehabbed animals, with  
161 Purrenhage suggesting a study design to compare rehabbed turtles to wild-caught turtles in  
162 the same area.

163

164 Purrenhage outlined a detailed GPS tracking study that would involve purchasing about 16  
165 GPS transmitters, focusing on female Blanding's turtles due to their importance to the



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166 population. The study would compare movement patterns of rehabbed turtles to wild-  
167 caught turtles from the same release locations to assess if their movements differ. Huggins  
168 inquired if relocations would be included, and Steinberg suggested an ideal scenario of  
169 eight wild-caught turtles and eight either relocated or released back to their capture sites,  
170 acknowledging the difficulty of obtaining such sample sizes.

171

#### 172 *LRAC Community Project Grants Discussion*

173

174 Stevens suggested creating a video series about native turtles, their habitats, and their  
175 importance to the Lamprey River watershed as a community-based grant project. This  
176 project would highlight issues like habitat fragmentation and the importance of returning  
177 turtles to their original habitats, which many people are unaware of. Steinberg supported  
178 the idea of shorter, educational documentaries for different turtle species, noting their  
179 potential for use in educational settings from university to middle school levels.

180

181 Huggins proposed using community grants to print more 3D models of turtles for education  
182 and outreach events. Stevens explained that such a grant could fund the printing of models  
183 and the hiring of an artist to paint them realistically, which would be beneficial for tabling  
184 events and demonstrations where real turtle shells are at risk of damage. Booth supported  
185 the idea, suggesting obtaining quotes for models of every species to determine the  
186 necessary budget and proposing a bidding process for artists to ensure quality.

187

188 Stevens plans to write a community grant application for the 3D models and discuss the  
189 documentary project further with Huggins. Steinberg offered to schedule a separate  
190 meeting with Stevens, Huggins, Purrenhage, and Megyesy to flesh out the research grant  
191 possibilities and proposals, especially regarding the David Carroll survey data and GPS  
192 tracking. Purrenhage suggested that to prepare for the GPS tracking study, they should  
193 analyze data from past turtle intakes to identify hotspots for injured female Blanding's or  
194 spotted turtles, as this would increase the likelihood of obtaining a reasonable sampling of  
195 individuals for the study.

196

197 Steinberg will follow up via email to arrange the meeting for research grant proposals and to  
198 provide Stevens with the contact info for the LRAC member who can help to advise on grant  
199 applications. Stevens will send out a link to the LRAC community grants program page to  
200 the board to review.

201

#### 202 **Other**

203

204 Booth shared that her business partner is on the board of the New Hampshire Timber  
205 Owners Association and suggested a presentation to their membership about turtle  
206 conservation. Stevens and Huggins agreed, suggesting that getting Megyesy's input on



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207 specific management practices that could be promoted to this audience would be worth  
208 pursuing as well.

209

210 **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

211

212 Minutes prepared by Drew Stevens and edited by Wendy Booth