



New Hampshire Turtle Rescue Board of Directors Meeting
Sunday, November 16, 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, Joshua Megyesy, Sarah Kern, Wendy
5 Booth, Chris Carr, Sharon Martel, Chris Bogard.

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7 **Members Absent:** Jennifer Purrenhage, David Steinberg, Karen Campbell.

8
9 **Others Present:** None.

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11 **Approval of Minutes**

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13 Stevens sought approval for the September and October meeting minutes.

14

15 *The draft minutes from the September 21, 2025 and October 19, 2025 minutes were*
16 *accepted as written by consensus.*

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18 **Committee Reports**

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20 Internal Affairs Committee Report

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22 Stevens thanked Sharon Martel for their extensive work on the organization's bookkeeping,
23 noting it has freed up a significant amount of time for other turtle-related tasks. Martel
24 provided an overview of the financials through September 30th, stating individual
25 contributions totaled \$18,370, with \$1,567 generated from events. Total donations through
26 September 30th were \$61,316, resulting in a net revenue of \$13,879, with \$24,626 cash in
27 the bank.

28

29 Martel explained a change in accounting to classify turtle sign sales as inventory product
30 revenue instead of donations, tracking associated expenses. Bogard inquired about the
31 programs with the highest expenses, and Martel reported that rehabilitation expenses were
32 the largest category at \$26,259, followed by administration at \$10,870, and then facilities.
33 Stevens directed Bogard to the profit and loss document shared with the Board for a
34 detailed breakdown of expenses across different programs and categories.

35

36 Bogard asked about the status of separating personal and turtle electricity usage. Stevens
37 recapped the discussion and decision from the prior meeting to cover 80% of the costs, but
38 that additional usage data had been gathered which will allow for a more accurate way of
39 fairly splitting the electricity usage, which would be presented at a future meeting.

40

41 Fundraising Committee Report

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43 Stevens reported on Giving Tuesday plans, including a \$2,500 matching donation offer from
44 the Modern Woodman of America. Stevens is finalizing a donor appeal letter to forward to
45 Carr. Carr mentioned that they will be mailing appeal letters to about 50 to 55 existing
46 donors along as well as a targeted list of 350 potential donors and is looking forward to
47 seeing the results.

48

49 Education and Outreach Committee

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51 Stevens shared that events have begun to be scheduled for 2026, including a presentation
52 in South Hampton at the end of April and bioblitz event in Nottingham on Saturday, May
53 2nd. Stevens expressed a desire to develop a program for children for the upcoming year,
54 acknowledging the need for an educator's nuance to convey conservation messaging
55 effectively without encouraging kids to want turtles as pets.

56

57 Kern advised starting small, perhaps with a single type of program or audience like
58 elementary schools or libraries. Bogard inquired if Stevens was looking to develop and
59 present the kid's programming themselves or hire someone. Stevens confirmed the
60 preference for hiring an educator due to time and resource constraints.

61

62 Bogard offered to contact a friend who retired from running an education outreach program
63 to see if they would be willing to be hired for a few programs. Bogard also shared an idea
64 used with Cub Scouts: having them stand in a dark box to simulate the experience of a
65 turtle being taken from the wild and kept captive, to demonstrate why they shouldn't be
66 kept as pets.

67

68 Booth, drawing on their experience as a bee educator, noted that libraries typically pay for
69 presentations while schools do not. Booth expressed concern about the board being too
70 spread thin to manage a whole new education mission without hiring paid help, cautioning
71 against taking on too much without a clear management plan. Stevens agreed that
72 targeting a single goal might be best before committing to running kid programs, suggesting
73 hiring someone to take over the existing adult presentations and working with Kern to
74 develop educational resources (like worksheets) for teachers and make those resources
75 available through the NHTR website. Bogard also volunteered to help with the existing adult
76 program presentations.

77

78 **Grant Project Updates**

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80 Turtles Models

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82 Stevens provided an update on the 3D printed turtle project plan, noting difficulty
83 contacting the Canadian company that creates the models. Stevens has also reached out
84 to a local supporter with a small 3D printing business but had initially requested too large



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85 an amount for them to accommodate with a single printer and is following up with them on
86 the feasibility of a smaller project. The existing 3D printed turtle models have been taken to
87 Wellesley College to potentially be part of a class painting project.

88

89 Turtle Tracking

90

91 Stevens then discussed the potential turtle tracking project and grant, noting that current
92 commercial GPS units are unlikely to work due to energy and battery size requirements,
93 and that if funding is secured in January or February, there would still be enough lead time
94 to obtain trackers before the active turtle season. A more in-depth discussion is planned
95 during an upcoming research committee meeting.

96

97 Disease Testing

98

99 Huggins provided an update on the disease testing grant project, including potential plans
100 for eDNA collection and analysis in priority habitats. Preliminary results provided by the
101 UNH Veterinary Diagnostics Lab were shared, finding none of the "big terrible diseases"
102 such as ranavirus or mycoplasma in any of the resident NHTR ambassador turtles, despite
103 some of them having a history of being kept with other non-native pet turtles. eDNA
104 testing, which involves collecting water samples, will be crucial for determining which
105 diseases are naturally occurring in the wild environment to inform release decisions.

106

107 Huggins stated that a big focus for the upcoming year will be dehabitation, as testing
108 suggests some current resident ambassadors may eventually become candidates to return
109 to their homes. A call with UNH Veterinary Diagnostics Lab team is scheduled for mid-
110 December, where more details will be worked out. Stevens noted that there seems to be a
111 fair amount of interest and funding available for emerging disease testing. Megyesy
112 mentioned a regional working group focused on emerging diseases in turtles and offered to
113 connect Huggins and Stevens with it.

114

115 **Officer and Board Member Updates**

116

117 Huggins gave a clinic update, reporting eight new intakes since the last board meeting,
118 noting that calls are starting to slow down with the colder weather. Huggins and Bogard are
119 collaborating on developing a guideline document for becoming a turtle rehabber,
120 prompted by a consistent volunteer's continued interest. Chris stressed the importance of
121 potential rehabbers having a basic foundational understanding, such as knowing what an
122 ectotherm is, and asked Megyesy for input on how to assess this knowledge. A discussion
123 regarding requirements and vetting followed.

124

125 Stevens shared positive related news about a grant awards to certain municipalities for
126 replacing culverts using improved designs that consider Blanding's turtles. Megyesy



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127 elaborated that this effort, which is part of a larger \$2.6 million program aimed at improving
128 wildlife crossings and reducing vehicle strikes on roads known to be particularly dangerous
129 for threatened reptile and amphibian populations.

130

131 **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

132

133 Minutes prepared by Drew Stevens