



New Hampshire Turtle Rescue Board of Directors Meeting
Sunday, February 15, 2026
Official Minutes

1 **Opening:** The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Drew Stevens. The meeting was
2 conducted virtually via Zoom.

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4 **Members Present:** Chris Bogard, Wendy Booth (Secretary), Karen Campbell, Chris Carr,
5 Dallas Huggins (Executive Director), Sarah Kern, Sharon Martel (Treasurer), Joshua
6 Megyesy, Drew Stevens (President).

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8 **Members Absent:** Jennifer Purrenhage, David Steinberg.

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10 **Approval of Minutes**

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12 The January 18, 2026 meeting minutes were considered by the Board and accepted as
13 written by consensus.

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15 **Executive Director's Report**

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17 Dallas reported that while there were no new intakes, they managed a situation with 8
18 Blanding's hatchlings that were discovered to have come from Massachusetts and were
19 successfully transported to the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife by Josh. The organization
20 is in maintenance mode and seeking more volunteers, particularly with school schedules
21 affecting availability. Dallas is conducting weekly advanced training sessions for dedicated
22 volunteers and planning monthly turtle-focused meetings, while also working to finalize
23 plans for four UNH student interns.

24
25 **Finance Report**

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27 Drew and Sharon are still working on the budget, which will be presented at the next
28 meeting, and Sharon will provide a financial overview of the organization's end-of-year
29 performance.

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31 Sharon reporting a net income of \$22,047 and a cash balance of \$32,000, an improvement
32 from the previous year's deficit of \$8,800.

33
34 Drew highlighted the significant expense of laundry services, which has cost over \$10,000
35 since May due to using a cleaning service to manage towels and reduce septic stress. The
36 Board discussed potential solutions, including exploring alternative laundry services,
37 negotiating with the current provider, or considering a separate laundry system, with Chris
38 B. offering to research competitive options.

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40 **Development Committee Established**

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42 The board established a Development Committee to handle fundraising efforts, with Chris
43 Carr appointed as chairperson. Chris C. presented updates on fundraising initiatives,
44 including a new virtual turtle adoption program starting with a \$50 symbolic adoption of an
45 NHTR ambassador turtle, as well as a \$7,500 grant from the Lamprey River Advisory
46 Committee to produce 3D turtle models. Drew mentioned seeking local artisans in New
47 Hampshire to create a full-size snapping turtle model, and the board was informed about
48 the upcoming NH Gives campaign June 10-11 and the need for board members to help with
49 handwritten addresses on fundraising mailings.

50

51 **Gift Acceptance Policy**

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53 Drew introduced a draft gift acceptance policy to guide the organization in managing
54 donations and fundraising requests. He explained that the policy was prompted by a recent
55 request from a supporter in Maine who wanted to fund wildlife habitat improvement
56 projects. The policy aims to provide a framework for evaluating and accepting gifts,
57 ensuring alignment with the organization's values and objectives. Drew emphasized that
58 the document is a "living document" subject to updates as the organization gains more
59 experience with complex funding requests.

60

61 The board discussed and approved a draft gift acceptance policy, which Drew developed by
62 combining elements from other organizations' policies. Chris B. noted that while she had
63 reviewed the first three pages, she had not thoroughly read the entire document and
64 therefore could not vote in favor of adoption. The board agreed to accept the policy by
65 consensus, with Drew and Dallas retaining veto power over potential gifts. They also
66 discussed the need to engage a nonprofit lawyer to review the policy and future donations,
67 and to consider adding a CPA for financial filings.

68

69 **Summer Intern Funding**

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71 Dallas reported that she was planning to have four summer intern positions, and would
72 support UNH students by helping them apply for funding through the UNH COLSA SOAR
73 program.

74

75 Drew and Dallas discussed the challenges of securing summer interns due to reduced
76 SOAR funding, which has led to a need for alternative funding mechanisms. They proposed
77 creating an internship program with stipends, potentially up to \$3,500, and are considering
78 consulting an employment lawyer to ensure compliance with labor laws.

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80 The board approved the plan to explore funding options, and Drew committed to providing
81 an update on progress at the next meeting.

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83 **HB 1603 Discussion**



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85 The board discussed NH House Bill 1603, legislation that would weaken environmental
86 protections for threatened and endangered species by requiring landowner permission for
87 records and forcing database purges, which Drew and Josh opposed due to its negative
88 impact on scientific data and conservation efforts.

89

90 Drew shared plans to write letters to legislators highlighting costs to taxpayers and lack of
91 transparency, and suggested the board issue a statement opposing the bill. Josh
92 recommended contacting local conservation commissions, as he believed the New
93 Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions has prepared opposition language.
94 The board agreed to consider taking a formal stance against the legislation.

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96 **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

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98 Minutes prepared by Drew