



Charles A. Levesque

Antrim Planning Board - CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Length of time in town: 13 years

Occupation: Forester and small business owner – Innovative Natural Resource Solutions LLC

Age: 53

Previous elected offices held: Town Moderator, Deering; National Council, Society of American Foresters

Other qualifications:

- Chaired Antrim Open Space Committee

- Company involved in land use, energy development and land conservation issues

- Master Plan Committee - Deering

- Serve(d) on numerous boards and committees, some as chair. Currently serving on board of Harris Center for Conservation Education; Statewide Program of Action to Conserve our Environment (NH current use coalition); NH Timberland Owners Association Centennial Committee; Will serve as Master of Ceremonies for the third straight year at the Heating the Northeast Conference – regional bio-heat conference.

Statement:

Antrim is at an important point in its modern history. We have a recently adopted Master Plan and an interest from residents and elected officials alike to both broaden our tax base to reduce our high property taxes and to conserve the rural nature of our wonderful community. The challenge we have is how to balance those two desires. Our zoning and land use ordinances are in place to help guide development in our town in a way that addresses both goals. We need to operate according to those delicately balanced processes and find a way to provide tax relief and responsible development.

I firmly believe that issues are rarely black and white – they are usually a shade of gray. Our job on the planning board is to review all sides of issues and to make decisions to guide proper development in Antrim. A good example of a recent issue where there seems to be black and white views is the proposal to build a wind farm in Antrim. There are both pros and cons to a development of this large magnitude. We need to carefully evaluate all of the facts about this issue and make decisions that are consistent with the town ordinances so that, if the wind farm is built, it is built in such a way that mitigates many if not most of the negative aspects of the development.

I am always open to hear all sides to issues and will do so with the wind farm project and any other development project that may come before the planning board. And I will urge a fair process for any issue before the board. Careful listening is a bedrock of sound decision making.