

Karl Cyr

2023 Candidate for North Yarmouth Select Board



My Background

My family has deep roots in Maine, and I am proud to call this place my home. My wife, two children, and I have been North Yarmouth (Farm & Forest District) residents since 2013. I'm incredibly proud of our small town's natural beauty, exemplary school system and strong sense of community. I have met many great people in the community through my participation in youth sports coaching and other volunteer activities at MSAD 51. For those I haven't met yet, look for me out golfing at Toddy Brook or walking the trails at Chandler Brook and Old Town House Park!

I'm running for Select Board as an opportunity to serve my community and ensure the responsible stewardship of our town's resources. My priorities are to preserve our natural spaces, maintain MSAD 51's standard of excellence, and uphold our citizens' expectations for responsible development. We have a unique opportunity in front of us to adapt to the rapid change of the past few years while preserving the character and traditions that have made this such a great place to live.

My personal commitment as a Select Board member will be to bring a positive, equitable and reasoned approach to all debates and decisions. I have a great deal of respect for the energy and passion that our citizens bring to the process of town governance and will do my part to honor those contributions with my efforts.

What are your qualifications for the office that you seek?

Most importantly, I am a long-term North Yarmouth resident who is committed to serving my community. With two decades in the software industry and a Masters degree in Business (MBA), I have extensive experience building and leading teams, managing budgets, and driving successful outcomes on complex initiatives. I pride myself on my natural tendency to listen well to others, even if we disagree, and patiently seek the information needed to better understand a situation. My approach to decision-making is methodical, balanced, and considerate of all stakeholders. I'm committed to building collaborative relationships with the town's boards and committees, employees and concerned citizens.

What motivated you to run for the office that you seek?

Reserving time and energy for public service and volunteering is an important personal value for me. I think we have a tremendous opportunity in front of us to build off the momentum of positive developments in our town such as improvements to the parks, village center and community center. At the same time, there's hard work to be done to rebuild some relationships and reconcile the realities of the rapid rate of change we've all experienced in the past few years. I'm generally a positive person and I look forward to contributing to addressing these opportunities and challenges.

Do you have sufficient time/energy to devote to this position?

Many people in the Cumberland / North Yarmouth community know me from my time volunteering with youth activities. Now that my kids are reaching high school and middle school and aging out of some of those activities, I'm looking forward to shifting this time and energy toward the opportunity to serve my town.

With one or two meetings a month, all boards are limited in what they can accomplish, how should the board decide what is most important?

One of the tremendous resources we have in this town is the body of actively engaged citizens serving on the Select Board and other committees. All of these folks have active family, professional and personal lives, so it is important that we are able to align around certain key objectives and follow orderly procedures to use our limited time as efficiently as possible. The Town Charter, Comprehensive Plan, committee bylaws, budgeting process and ordinances are the foundation of town governance, and should serve as guideposts for setting the Board's priorities.

**Think of an issue facing North Yarmouth that you care about.
Do you have a positive solution that you want to bring forth?**

A survey was conducted in 2016 in preparation for the 2018 Comprehensive Plan. This survey compiled subjective feedback from residents about their thoughts on the town's past, present and future. In the relatively short time since then we've absorbed enormous changes, including some development in line with the Plan, an influx of new residents in the Village Center, and the "black swan event" of the pandemic. I'd like to see us revisit that survey as a way to measure how people are currently thinking of the town in light of these recent changes. This would ensure that we are continuing to give all residents a voice in the planning process and address any points that might require reevaluation. This, and other potential opportunities for outreach and productive community feedback would be worthwhile investments toward improving engagement in town planning.