

Barry Jacobs Bio

Barry Jacobs' family immigrated to the U.S. from Germany, Austria, and the Ukraine and settled in New York City about a century ago. Barry came to North Carolina in 1968 after growing up in Wantagh, Long Island, and has remained here since.

Barry earned a BA in history from Duke University in 1972, by which time he was already farming. He has resided in Orange County for 41 years, the last 37 as site supervisor at Moorefields, a wildlife refuge and 1785 house near Hillsborough that is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and owned by the non-profit Moorefields Foundation.

Barry has been a freelance writer since 1976, authoring five books, 14 basketball annuals, nominations to the National Register, and hundreds of articles on sports, history, and the environment for newspapers (including 20 years for the New York Times), magazines, and the Internet. He currently is a weekly sports columnist for Raleigh's News and Observer.

He is married to Robin Lackey Jacobs, executive director of the Eno River Association and a partner at Epting and Hackney law firm.

Barry previously served on and chaired the Orange County Planning Board and the Board of Directors of OWASA. He was first elected to the Orange County Board of Commissioners in 1998 and reelected in 2002, 2006, 2010 and 2014. He has been honored to serve as chair and vice chair of the board.

As a commissioner Barry has taken a special interest in affordable housing, local agriculture, environmental protection, recycling and solid waste, education, economic development, land use, governmental efficiency, parks and recreation, libraries, social justice, and public access to decision-making.

Barry has served on N.C. commissions on smart growth and electronic voting. Committed to regional approaches to problems, he was a board member of the Triangle J Council of Governments, the Triangle Area Rural Planning Organization and the Piedmont Food and Agricultural Processing Center, chairing each group for several years. He is currently a member of the Burlington-Graham and Durham-Chapel Hill Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and of national and state county commissioner committees concerned with agriculture and rural affairs.