May 24, 2019

Lori Parham  
AARP Maine State Director  
53 Baster Road  
Portland, ME 04101

Dear Ms. Parham,

On behalf of the Town of Pownal, we are pleased to submit this letter of interest and commitment in the AARP/World Health Organization Network of Age-Friendly Communities. Pownal recognizes the importance of encouraging and promoting age-friendly planning and policies and is committed to working with the Town of Freeport to identify, develop and implement programs and initiatives to support active and healthy aging.

Under the umbrella of Freeport Community Services and the Freeport Housing Trust, a needs assessment survey was conducted by Planning Decisions in 2015/2016. In the Executive Summary, six themes emerged with “Keeping Seniors Home” as the number one concern. From there a variety of community meetings were held to discuss and identify some of the immediate needs in Freeport and Pownal (see attached timeline). A VISTA Volunteer was hired in January 2019 to oversee the project. A steering committee was formed and will identify programs/services already in place; hold focus group meetings to hear from our residents; and prioritize the needs. An action plan will be created and put in place.

Freeport Community Services serves residents in both Freeport and Pownal. It is clear, however, that the needs of the two communities are very different. From the newly-formed steering committee, a Pownal sub-committee was formed to focus on the very different and specific needs of Pownal residents. Pownal is committed to this initiative and to involving older residents with the planning.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jonathan Morris / Pownal Selectman  
George Anderson, Jr. / Pownal Selectman  
Cc Melissa Henes / Pownal Administrative Assistant