December 20, 2021

Mike Festa, Director
AARP Massachusetts
One Beacon Street, Suite 2301
Boston MA 02108

Dear Mr. Festa,

I am submitting this letter of commitment on behalf of the Town of Palmer to join the network of Age Friendly Communities. The Council on Aging is spearheading this effort in conjunction with representatives from other municipal departments, the Palmer Library, Baystate Wing Hospital, PVTA, and other health and social service agencies that serve the community through a working group developed to oversee the development of a Community Assessment and Action Plan. This work follows the completion of the Palmer Master Plan which also included many elements that support healthy aging within our community.

The Town has the opportunity to receive technical assistance for this effort from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission through the Mass in Motion program and funding from the Tufts Health Plan Foundation that supports the development of Age and Dementia Friendly Communities throughout the PVPC region of Hampden and Hampshire Counties. We look forward to collaborating with other communities in the region doing this work to share ideas and to work toward developing an Age and Dementia Friendly Pioneer Valley.

The working group will meet monthly over the coming year to highlight aspects of the Master Plan that address the domains of an Age and Dementia Friendly Community and to hold additional opportunities for engagement with older adults to prioritize actions that the Town can take in the coming years to support the needs of older adults in the community.

This is important work as we understand that our population is aging, and the needs of older adults must be considered in all aspects of planning for a more livable community for people of all ages.

Sincerely,

Ryan McNutt,
Town Manager