June 28, 2021

Jane Margesson, State Director
AARP Maine
53 Baxter Boulevard, Suite 202
Portland, ME 04101

Dear Ms. Margesson:

On behalf of the Town of Houlton, we are pleased to submit this letter of interest and support for the AARP/World Health Organization Network of Age-Friendly Communities. Houlton recognizes the importance of encouraging and promoting age-friendly planning and policies to address changing demographics and to enhance independent living. We are committed to a process of continual improvement to support active and healthy aging. We are excited to join the Age-Friendly Communities Network.

As the Town of Houlton develops plans and programs, we want to promote successful aging and improve the quality of life for all residents. There is great value in utilizing the AARP’s Eight Domains of Livability in establishing a more age-friendly town, including: making outdoor spaces and buildings more senior friendly, increasing the accessibility and affordability of transportation and housing, increasing access and opportunities for social participation and inclusion through programs that promote ethnic and cultural diversity, supporting work and volunteer opportunities, access to communication and information, and supporting the ability of older people to age in place through community support and health services.

As part of our involvement and support, we will collaborate with the Age Friendly Houlton Volunteer Committee as they conduct a base assessment of the community’s age-friendliness and develop a community action plan based on the findings of the assessment. We will encourage the Committee to involve older residents in the planning process and will urge them to monitor their progress as they move forward with the implementation of their action plan.

We look forward to this partnership with the AARP Maine staff, members and volunteers to make our community a place where we can all age with dignity.

Christian J. Robinson, Chair
s/Agreed thru ZOOM
Eileen E. McLaughlin
Absent
G. William McCluskey

Susan M. Tortello, Secretary
Dennis W. Harmon
Edward M. Lake