April 5, 2021

Todd C. Fahey, J.D.
State Director
AARP New Hampshire
45 South Main Street, Suite 202
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Mr. Fahey,

On behalf of the Town of Newport, New Hampshire, and the Town’s Board of Selectmen, I am pleased to offer this letter of commitment and support for Newport’s application to join AARP’s Network of Age Friendly Communities.

Newport has undertaken many revitalization projects the past couple of years including improved sidewalks, rehabilitation of aging infrastructure, and increased recreational activities and resources. But we’re just getting started!

As part of our overall community development efforts, we are eager to examine every component that goes into a positive, prosperous quality of life for ALL ages. Upon acceptance to the network, we will begin with a community wide assessment in line with AARP’s Community Survey Questionnaire. We will then develop a Community Action plan based on the findings and steer and/or modify our revitalization and economic development efforts to best fit what the community deems as priorities.

Not only are we the Sullivan County seat but we are the first community on the Western side of the state to apply for this designation. Newport is fully aware of the growing needs and priority of our aging population. According to the 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) Estimates, 26.3% of Newport’s residents are age 60 and over, which is up from 22.5% in the 2011 Estimates. This age cohort is only expected to grow in the coming years. With this in mind, Newport is committed to becoming a livable community for all ages, promoting healthy lifestyles, a strong economy, and a better quality of life.
Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with AARP to incorporate the 8 Domains of Livability, actively coordinating a community wide plan, and continuing to improve the well-being of the Town’s citizens in all stages of life.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Kessler, Chairperson
Town of Newport Board of Selectmen

603.863.1877
jkessler@newportnh.gov