Town of Keene

RESOLUTION

TO SEEK MEMBERSHIP IN THE AARP NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, the health and well-being of residents of all ages is of highest concern to the citizens of Keene, New York – the first state in the nation to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities in December 2017; and

WHEREAS, the median age of Keene residents is 50 and 25% of the population is over 65; and

WHEREAS, Keene’s quiet small-town atmosphere surrounded by wilderness and forested peaks makes this an attractive place to retire; and

WHEREAS, many of the things that will help our Seniors and soon-to-be Seniors thrive will also benefit other age groups and help attract new residents; and

WHEREAS, participation in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities would provide technical and other assistance in implementing Keene’s 2021 Strategic Plan, which envisions that over the next decade, the Town of Keene will intentionally:

- support the expansion of year-round, achievable housing stock for individuals working and retiring in Keene;
- support continued access to primary health care within the Town;
- build upon and create infrastructure and resources that serve seniors and young families alike;
- seek to balance support for recreational tourism in Keene with protecting residents from the adverse impacts of over-use and mis-use of non-Town lands; and
- expand recreational opportunities for residents.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in order to ensure Keene sustains and expands its livability and promotes health and sustained economic growth for residents of all ages, the Town of Keene requests participation in the Network of Age-Friendly Communities.

Adopted July 13, 2021
July 13, 2021

AARP New York State Director Beth Finkel
One Commerce Plaza, Suite 706
Albany, NY 12260

Dear Director Finkel:

On behalf of the Town of Keene, I am pleased to offer this letter of commitment to create an age-friendly environment in our community as we seek to join AARP’s Network of Age-Friendly Communities.

Our desire to join the Age-Friendly Communities initiative is an outgrowth of the Town’s volunteer-driven 2021 Keene Strategic Plan, which seeks to thoughtfully and intentionally enhance the Town’s growth, while retaining the quiet, small-town atmosphere surrounded by the magnificent Adirondack Park.

By participating in the Network of Age-Friendly Communities, the Town will continue its volunteer-led initiatives to expand year-round, achievable housing for individuals working and retiring in Keene; support continued access to primary health care within the Town; expand access to resources that serve seniors and young families alike; and expand recreational opportunities for residents and support recreational tourism that is respectful of Town residents. We believe these proposals comport with the eight established domains of Age-Friendly livability: outdoor recreational and gathering spaces, transportation options; housing options, social participation, respect and social inclusion, civic engagement; information resources; and access to health care.

Furthermore, we anticipate the ability to engage both the Strategic Plan workgroup volunteers and others in an advisory committee that would advance ongoing planning to achieve the goal of age-friendly livability.

We look forward to working with AARP on this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Joseph P. Wilson, Jr.
Supervisor, Town of Keene