March 8, 2021

Mr. Michael E. Festa
AARP Massachusetts State Director
1 Beacon Street, Suite 2301
Boston MA. 02108

Dear Mr. Festa,

As the executive body of New Salem Massachusetts, we request your consideration of New Salem’s application as part of the Age- and Dementia-Friendly Project in Franklin County and North Quabbin, to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities, affiliate to the World Health Organization’s Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. Our community recognizes the need to prepare for an increasingly older population, and the importance of planning and policies that consider the needs of citizens of all ages. This is a matter of equity, but also a means through which we can better sustain our community’s social and economic vitality.

We look forward to joining the AARP Age-Friendly Communities Network in order to focus on this goal of achieving a more livable community for older adults and people living with dementia. We believe a process that identifies needs and opportunities for the development of more age- and dementia-friendly policies and procedures will enhance the relevance and impact of our planning efforts. We also understand that New Salem’s membership would be among the first in our region, and that in this way we may serve as a model that will encourage other communities to join.

Thank you for your consideration of the Town of New Salem’s membership in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities.

Sincerely,

Selectboard, Town of New Salem

Randy Gordon, Chair

Wayne Hachey

Jean Derderian