



Birthplace of LL Bean

Town of Greenwood 593 Gore Road Greenwood, Maine 04255 • (207) 875-2773

February 2, 2016

Lori Parham  
State Director, AARP  
53 Baxter Blvd., Suite 202  
Portland, ME 04101

Dear Ms. Parham,

The Town of Greenwood has prided itself in providing services and quality of life for all of its residents, including our senior citizens. However, those who have grown up in or retired to Greenwood are at risk of being forced to leave their community as they grow older because their need for personal services and medical care can't be met. Here in Maine, surveys show that 9 out of 10 residents, ages 50 or over, want to stay in their own homes in their local communities as long as possible. To enable this to happen, the community is recognizing that initiatives must be undertaken to provide for a more age-friendly environment for its senior citizens (estimated to be 16% of Greenwood's Population).

The Age-Friendly Community Project (AFCP) was initiated in June of last year as an off-shoot of the, "To Your Health Program of the Western Mountains Senior College" - in collaboration with the Bethel Family Health Center and MSAD #44 Continuing Education. The project's goal is to develop a plan that will provide for a more age-friendly community for senior citizens. The AFCP team will be collaborating with other groups, such as the Healthy Oxford Hills Community Coalition, to share ideas on how to best meet the needs of our aging population. To complement county and state-wide programs, the on-going update of the Town's Comprehensive Plan represents an ideal vehicle in which sufficient, affordable, reliable and quality services to permit people to remain in their homes are identified. The Plan also represents an opportunity to offer a strategy for providing those services that are needed. The "livability domains," developed by the World Health Organization and supported by the AARP, offer an ideal framework for the Town's planning endeavors, such as our Comprehensive Plan.

It is anticipated that the AFCP, under the auspices of the AARP's Network of AGE-Friendly Communities, will draw upon the resources available to satisfy the needs of Greenwood's aging population. The Town's leadership strongly supports this project. Therefore, the Town of Greenwood seeks to join the AARP's Network of Age-Friendly Communities, and agrees to serve as the fiscal agent for the AFCP.

Greenwood Board of Selectmen

  
Fred Henderson, Chairman

  
Arnold Jordan

  
Amy Chapman