

Town of Deer Isle
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May 4, 2017

Lori Parham
AARP Maine State Director
53 Baster Blvd.
Portland, ME 04101

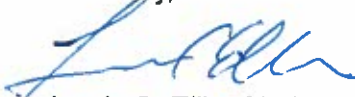
Dear Ms. Parham:

On behalf of the Town of Deer Isle, we are pleased to submit this letter of interest and commitment in the AARP/World Health Organization Network of Age-Friendly Communities. Deer Isle recognizes the importance of encouraging and promoting age-friendly planning and programming to address changing demographics and to enhance independent living in our communities. We are happy to join the robust community collaboration coordinated by Healthy Peninsula that has brought many resources, programs and initiatives in support of active and healthy aging to our community. We look forward to continuing the community conversations and activities to further these efforts in the future.

Deer Isle, a town of approximately 1,975 year-round residents, already has a high level of civic engagement and a strong sense of community. The median age is 53, with about 41% of our residents aged 60 or older. More than half of all households (53%) include at least one person who is 60 or older. While we have a self-reliant and engaged community, we recognize that there is more to be done to make our community truly a livable community where seniors can age safely in their own homes and live full, active lives.

As part of our involvement and commitment, we will work with Healthy Peninsula's Age-Friendly Region (including the towns of the Blue Hill Peninsula, Deer Isle and Stonington) to assess our region's age-friendliness and develop a community plan based on the findings of the assessment. We will involve older residents in the planning process and monitor progress toward implementing the action plan.

Sincerely,



Lewis C. Ellis, Chair
Deer Isle Select Board



Ronald B. Eaton
Deer Isle Select Board



Twyla C. Weed
Deer Isle Select Board