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January 11, 2017

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

Dear Ms Parham,

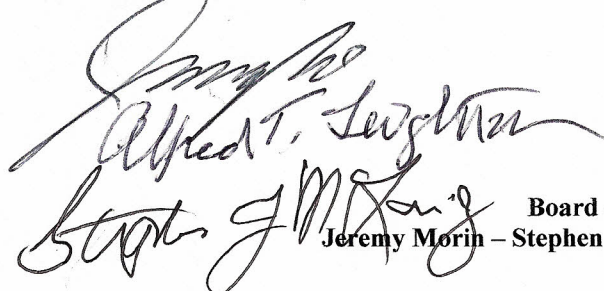
The Town of Gilead is looking forward to the possibilities of working with Bethel and the surrounding towns as a member of the Age-friendly Community Network on a regional basis. Many of Gilead's residents are over 60 and the more we can do to make it safe and healthy, the better for everyone. One of the Town's goals is to make it easier for people to remain in their homes.

The Town of Gilead has prided itself in providing services and quality of life for all of its residents, including its senior citizens. However, those who have grown up in or retired to Gilead are at risk of being forced to leave the community as they grow older because their need for personal services and medical care can't be met here. Here in Maine, surveys show that 9 out of 10 residents, ages 50 and 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 (50 and over) citizens.

We would like to become the fifth town of the already existing Bethel (ME) area Age-friendly Community Initiative (AFCI). The AFCI was initiated in June of 2015 and now embraces the towns of Bethel, Greenwood, Newry and Woodstock. The AFCI's Advisory Council's goal is to provide for a more age-friendly community for all of its citizens, to include its senior citizens. The Advisory Council is already cooperating with other groups, such as the area's SeniorsPlus and Community Concepts, to share ideas and resources that will best meet the needs of the area's aging population.

The Town's leadership strongly supports this project. Therefore, the Town of Gilead seeks to join the AARP's Network of Age-friendly Communities.

Gilead Board of Selectmen



Board of Selectmen
Jeremy Morin – Stephen McLain, Jr. – Alfred Leighton