



OFFICE OF THE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF MAYNARD

MUNICIPAL BUILDING
195 MAIN STREET
MAYNARD, MASSACHUSETTS 01754
Tel: 978-897-1301 Fax: 978-897-8457

Chairman Chris DiSilva
Selectman David Gavin
Selectman Terrence Donovan
Selectman Melissa Levine-Piro
Selectman Cheryl Steele

Andrew Scribner-MacLean
Acting Town Administrator

Mr. Michael Festa
Massachusetts State Director
One Beacon Street, Suite 2301
Boston, MA 02108

Re: Membership in the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and communities

On behalf of the Town of Maynard, I am pleased to offer this letter for our ongoing commitment to creating an Age-Friendly Community and Region, and I respectfully request membership to the AARP/WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. Maynard is submitting this letter and its application as a part of a 14-town collaborative effort¹ of the Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination (MAGIC) to advance regional age-friendly planning.

Older adults are increasingly a larger part of our community, a trend we are also seeing in our neighboring towns. Regionally, currently 9-20% of residents are 65 years and older, in 2030 this range will jump to 14-36%. The unique needs of a growing older adult population will influence housing, transportation, and health care, among other services and systems. These facts compel us to be proactive, to ensure that current efforts and planning address these issues, and that both now and in the future older residents are supported in leading stable, engaged, and healthy lives.

Through the 14-town collaborative effort, Maynard will seek to advance age-friendly regional planning and solutions for two particularly pressing issues: housing and transportation. Where the region has limited public transit and is largely car-dependent, solutions must address needs for older adult mobility, particularly for those that do not drive cars, and including active transportation solutions that support active and healthy lifestyles. In the region, the housing stock available may not meet the needs of adults as they age and as their households get smaller. Solutions, therefore must be responsive to older adults across their lifetime, and must also include adequate affordable options to ensure that residents may continue to age in their communities. Where these are issues that towns work actively on, by working across towns, we will have the opportunity to build on our successes and identify and implement regional housing and transportation solutions for older adults both in the near term and into the future.

Thank you for your consideration of our membership to the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. We look forward to our partnership in building age-friendly communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "CDSE", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Chris DiSilva, Chairman, Maynard Board of Selectmen