



Town of Stow
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February 28, 2018

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 Stow, I am pleased to offer this letter regarding 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. Stow is submitting this letter and its application as a part of a 14-town collaborative effortⁱ of the Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordinationⁱⁱ (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. Currently, 9-20% of residents in our region are 65 years and older, in 2030 this range will jump to 14-36%.ⁱⁱⁱ 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 older residents are supported in leading stable, engaged, and healthy lives.

Through the 14-town collaborative effort, Stow will work to advance age-friendly regional planning and strategies for two particularly pressing issues: Housing and Transportation. As 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. By coordinating these efforts regionally, we will have the opportunity to build on our successes and identify and implement 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,

Bill Wrigley
Town Administrator

ⁱ The regional age-friendly effort is a collaboration between Acton, Bedford, Bolton, Boxborough, Carlisle, Concord, Hudson, Lexington, Lincoln, Littleton, Maynard, Stow, Sudbury and Westford.

ⁱⁱ MAGIC is a subregion of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, and is the convener of the regional Age-Friendly initiatives. More information: www.mapc.org/magic

ⁱⁱⁱ Census 2010 and MAPC MetroFuture Projections for participating towns