



Town of Wenham

Town Hall
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Wenham, MA 01984

Selectmen / Town Administrator
TEL 978-468-5520 FAX 978-468-8014

June 11, 2018

Kara Cohen, Community Outreach and Volunteer Engagement Manager
AARP Massachusetts
One Beacon Street, Suite 2301
Boston, MA 02108

RE: Wenham, MA Application for AARP Age Friendly Designation

Dear Ms. Cohen,

The Town of Wenham is submitting our application to achieve age friendly designation through The Association of Retired Persons (AARP). Wenham has officially committed time and resources to move forward on an age and dementia friendly initiative, termed *wenham connects*, which is striving to build a vibrant sense of community for older adults.

As we create an inclusive model, we are engaging the voices of older adults through community dialogue and leadership facilitation from an age friendly consultant. To date, we have hosted two well-attended listening sessions, educated the community about the age friendly model developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Association of Retired Persons (AARP), and disseminated information about AARP's 8 Domains of Livability. We are also now collaborating with UMass Gerontology Institute age friendly consultant specialists who are conducting a comprehensive needs assessment (key informant interviews and focus group sessions) for the Town of Wenham this month.

Collectively, the findings of these consultants will provide a roadmap for the development of an action plan, so that we can understand where our challenges and priorities lie and then systematically plan for how we intend to address those issues and meet those needs over the course of the next five years. We are well on our way to becoming better informed about the unmet needs of older adults in Wenham, and what is essential to make Wenham a more "livable" place as people age in this community.

Ultimately, the goal of *wenham connects* is to make a positive impact on the community by building a more inclusive and supportive social environment that can substantively improve quality of life for our older residents across a wide spectrum of dimensions.

We look forward to becoming an AARP age friendly designated community. Please contact my office with any questions about our application.

Sincerely,

Peter Lombardi
Town Administrator

cc: Bill Armbruster, AARP
Jim Reynolds, Wenham COA Director