



Town of Marion
Two Spring Street
Marion, Massachusetts 02738

Board of Selectmen—

Norman A. Hills, Chairman
Randy L. Parker, Vice-Chairman
John P. Waterman, Clerk

Town Administrator—

Paul F. Dawson
508.748.3550
Selectmen—508.748.3520

February 20, 2019

Mr. Michael Festa
AARP MA State Director
1 Beacon Street, Suite 2301
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Mr. Festa,

The Town of Marion looks forward to the opportunity to be enrolled in the AARP/World Health Organization's Age Friendly Network. This initiative focuses on many areas the town recognizes as being of concern for older residents and has been working on: housing, transportation, community engagement, outdoor spaces and social inclusion. We are committed to ensuring that our residents have the services and supports needed to age in place.

The Town of Marion is a seaside community incorporated in 1852 of approximately 5000 residents as well as many summer residents some of whom eventually elect to retire here. 36% of Marion's residents are 60 or older (1794), well above the State average of 21% according to the Tufts Health Plan Foundation's 2018 MA Healthy Aging Community Profile.

Elders in Marion are supported by the Marion Council on Aging through programs and services that include transportation to medical appointments; shopping and programs at the Community Center that include lunches as well as enrichment programs. Many of the lunches are provided collaboratively with Coastline Services both in residents' homes and in a congregate setting at the Community Center. Health services are provided at the Center through the Town Nurse and other health providers.

Areas of concern such as housing, community engagement, and transportation are also addressed in the Town of Marion Master Plan and this initiative will work in support of and in cooperation with that plan as well as to focus and expand on those areas. The Age-Friendly initiative will also work in cooperation with other committee initiatives (Safe Sidewalks, a Bike Path for example)

that will expand and enhance the well-being of Marion's older residents and promote aging in place.

As a participant in the Age-Friendly Network, the Town of Marion commits to:

- Convening a working committee representing residents 60 or older as well as utilizing ad hoc members from community organizations, town departments and academic partners
- Assess the needs of Marion residents 60 or older, create a plan of action with measureable outcomes, implement the action plan and
- Commit to measuring progress and reporting outcomes publicly

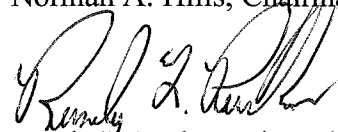
Like most communities, Marion has little budget flexibility and we hope to apply for grants to assist in the endeavors listed above once we are enrolled in the AARP/WHO Age Friendly Network and designated as a community committed to living up to the ideals of that network.

Thank you for your consideration; we look forward to partnering with AARP MA staff in our efforts to ensure that the Town of Marion is Age Friendly.

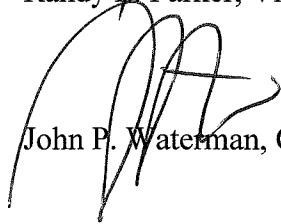
Sincerely,



Norman A. Hills, Chairman



Randy J. Parker, Vice-Chairman



John P. Waterman, Clerk