



TOWN OF NORTH BROOKFIELD
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OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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September 16, 2019

Michael E. Festa, Esq., State Director
AARP Massachusetts State Office
1 Beacon Street, Suite 2301
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Mr. Festa,

On behalf of the Town of North Brookfield, we are excited about the opportunity to join AARP Massachusetts and the World Health Organization (WHO) to become an Age-Friendly Community. I am pleased to offer this letter of our ongoing commitment to creating an age-friendly environment and respectfully request membership to the AARP Age-Friendly Network and the WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities.

As with many municipalities across the Commonwealth, the Town of North Brookfield is experiencing a demographic shift that has serious implications for how we live, work, and plan for the future. Older adults living in rural and small communities such as North Brookfield face certain challenges related to the accessibility of key services and leisure activities, transportation service and network gaps, availability of home and community-based programs, appropriate housing, tax burdens, and social isolation. In order to prepare for the needs of a rapidly growing population, we understand it is critical to re-examine the environmental, economic, and social factors that influence the health and well-being of older adults in the community. North Brookfield recognizes the importance of developing, implementing, and promoting age-friendly planning and policies to enhance livability for residents of all ages.

To support this, North Brookfield is committed to a process of continual improvements in order to foster healthy aging, sustain economic and social vitality. We are committed to educating the community about our seniors' needs while also ensuring that seniors are engaged throughout the planning process. As a participant in the national network of communities, it is North Brookfield's intent to convene a Committee or Task Force to lead the work; develop an Action Plan that responds to the needs identified by older adults, town officials, volunteers, and other stakeholders; commit to measuring activities, reviewing Action Plan outcomes and reporting on them publicly.

Thank you for your consideration of our membership to the AARP Age-Friendly Network and the WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities. We look forward to working with AARP Massachusetts and our partners at the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) to ensure that North Brookfield residents of all ages have the opportunity to live safe, rewarding, and productive lives.

Sincerely,

John Tripp,
Selectmen for North Brookfield