



Town of Winchester

Mariano Goluboff, Chairman
Michael Bettencourt, Vice Chairman
Jacqueline A. Welch
Susan Verdicchio
Amy Shapiro

Select Board
71 Mt. Vernon Street
Winchester, MA 01890
Phone: 781-721-7133
Fax: 781-756-0505
townmanager@winchester.com

September 20, 2019

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

Dear Mr. Festa:

On behalf of the Town of Winchester Select Board and the Town Manager, Lisa Wong along with support from the Winchester Council on Aging Advisory Board, we are delighted to submit this letter and application requesting membership in the AARP WHO Global Network of Age Friendly Communities.

Winchester is a great place to live, work, play, raise a family, and grow old. The Town is embarking upon a Master Plan and we are committed toward making Winchester a model age-friendly community that includes being dementia-friendly. With over 20% of our population over 60 years of age, we are also acutely aware that as an aging community, special consideration must be given to the needs of seniors.

Like many communities across Massachusetts, Winchester strives to advance policies and programs that support older residents, particularly as the number of our residents over the age of 65 continues to rise. Winchester's senior center, The Jenks Center, recently completed its strategic plan that proclaims that Winchester will become the most age-friendly community in the Commonwealth. At November's Town Meeting the Town committed \$35,000 towards the purchase of a handicapped accessible vehicle that will be delivered to the Council on Aging before the end of the year. The Select Board recently revised guidelines for its senior volunteer tax reduction program to provide additional incentives to promote economic security for seniors. The annual Symposium sponsored by The Jenks Center on October 17th is entitled "What Are Age-Friendly Communities & How Does Winchester Become One?"

As we continue to focus on and address the many challenges that face our community and the entire region, we work on behalf of our older residents to ensure equal and affordable access to housing, social services, healthcare, and more. Winchester is committed to building upon our existing policies, improving our infrastructure, creating strategic collaborations, and empowering our community members. Becoming an Age Friendly Community will greatly increase the visibility of these efforts.

We are looking forward to becoming a part of this great initiative, and hope you will look favorably on our application. Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact.

Sincerely,

Mariano Goluboff
Chairperson, Winchester Select Board