

Town of Wayne

P.O. Box 400; 48 Pond Road
Wayne, ME 04284

Phone: (207) 685-4983 Fax: (207) 685-3836

<http://www.waynemaine.org>

September 6, 2016

Lori Parham
AARP Maine State Director
53 Baster Blvd
Portland ME 04101

Dear Ms. Parham,

On behalf of the Town of Wayne, Maine, I am pleased to submit this letter of interest and commitment in the AARP/World Health Organization Network of Age-Friendly Communities. Wayne recognizes the importance of encouraging and promoting age-friendly planning and policies to address changing demographics and to enhance independent living, and is committed to a process of continual improvement to support active and healthy aging.

As a small town of approximately 1,000 people, Wayne has always been a community in which every person counts and in which we look out for each other. The most recent census figures show that approximately one quarter of our town's residents are 65 or older, and approximately one tenth are 75 or older. These honored elders are the keepers of Wayne's culture. They have much to teach, and have already contributed greatly. We want to help them stay in this community as they get older, if they choose to. This goal of supporting people as they age in our community faces obstacles including a lack of public transportation and affordable housing, rural isolation, the busy lives led by younger adults in town, and the lower incomes people experience as they get older. According to the last census, the median incomes for those 65 and older in our town are significantly lower than the median incomes for those aged 45-64. Some of our elders are living at or below the poverty line.

As part of our involvement and commitment we will conduct a base assessment of the community's age-friendliness and develop a community action plan based on the findings of the assessment. We will involve older residents deeply in the planning process and we commit to monitoring progress toward implementing the action plan.

Sincerely,



Gary Kenny
Chair, Selectboard