



City Council

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December 10, 2014

Lori Parham
State Director, AARP Maine
1685 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04102

Dear Ms. Parham;

As Hancock and Washington Counties fastest growing community, in a state with a statistically high proportion of seniors, the City of Ellsworth is extremely interested in participating in the AARP's Network of Age Friendly Communities Program. Ellsworth has proactively embraced this evolving demographic trend and has incorporated concepts to actively retain and attract seniors to our area through its Strategic Planning Process, Community and Economic Development policies, and Planning Department protocols. The Network of Age Friendly Communities Program is an important initiative that will be a valuable tool in furthering our efforts locally and throughout the State of Maine as a whole. We are very pleased to know that we are "on the right track" as we feel confident we have already aligned with several of the programs principals but are eager to become fully immersed and to take full advantage of the vast array of knowledge and services that the program has to offer.

Ellsworth's City Council and management staff have made conscious decisions regarding the retention and attraction of the senior demographic such as constructing sidewalks to make the City more pedestrian friendly, turning a former school building into a community/senior center, converting yet again another old school property into a community park and attracting investors who have built senior friendly housing as well as an assisted living facility in our community. Our goal is to provide our current senior population with the necessary amenities to age in place, near family and friends as well as to provide opportunities for those looking to migrate to a community with great quality of life opportunities and strong quality of place attributes.

We continually strive to identify and stay ahead of our citizens needs and look forward to working with AARP Maine and being a part of the AARP Network of Age Friendly Communities Program. This program will provide valuable assistance and guidance in establishing baseline data, prioritizing our community action plan and monitoring areas of progress both short and long term. We look forward to becoming a part of this valuable program.

Sincerely,

Robert Crosthwaite
Ellsworth City Council Chairman