

May 14, 2018

Lori Parham
AARP Maine State Director
53 Baxter Boulevard
Portland ME 04101

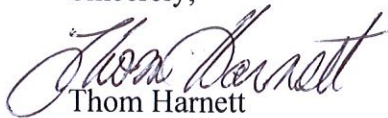
Dear Ms. Parham,

On behalf of the City of Gardiner, I am pleased to submit this letter of interest and commitment in the AARP/World Health Organization Network of Age-Friendly Communities. Gardiner recognizes the importance of supporting and developing age-friendly planning and policies to address the needs of the changing age-structure of our population. We are supportive of enhancing independent living and seeking continual improvement to promote active and healthy aging.

The Gardiner City Council has expressed its support of this application both informally and through formal and recorded City Council action. In early 2017, at the request of Gardiner residents, we contacted Patricia Oh to learn more about the program. Ms. Oh graciously attended our regular City Council meeting on February 15, 2017. She provided an overview of the program, distributed a written description, and answered questions from Councilors and the public. At a subsequent City Council meeting held on September 6, 2017, the Council vote unanimously to establish an ad hoc committee to research the program and to discuss becoming a member of the AARP Network of Age Friendly Communities. That committee, comprised of residents, myself as a Council liaison, and a staff liaison, has been meeting regularly in 2018. I am happy to report that Gardiner is ready to move forward with this process. This decision is consistent with our longstanding commitment to working with and for our older residents to create a truly age friendly community.

In conjunction with our involvement and commitment, we will conduct a base assessment of Gardiner's age-friendliness and develop a community action plan that follows from our findings. This planning process will involve older residents of our city, and we commit the city to monitoring progress toward implementing the action plan.

Sincerely,



Thom Harnett
Mayor
City of Gardiner