

October 2, 2018

Lori Parham
AARP Maine
53 Baxter Blvd #202
Portland, ME 04101

Dear Ms. Parham,

On behalf of the Town of Mount Vernon Board of Selectmen, I am pleased to offer this letter in support of our Aging In Place committee's request for membership in AARP Maine's Age-Friendly network of communities. Mount Vernon is committed to pursuing policies and programs that will allow our older residents to both remain independent and integrated into the daily life of the town, and Age-Friendly Maine is just such a concept.

Last year, Mount Vernon began updating our thirty-year-old comprehensive plan, and solicited input from residents via a survey sent to every home and a public forum. We learned the topic of aging in place was hugely important to our citizens and we pledged to include it in our new plan. Thus the selectmen recruited a group of volunteers to look at the issue and come up with goals for the next decade.

That group has grown into an official town committee, and was included in June's municipal budget. The committee has begun working on a variety of projects that fit seamlessly into the strong social network we already enjoy. A proposed home task assistance program will enhance our Neighbors Driving Neighbors program. Afternoon activities will run in conjunction with our Saturday breakfasts; a senior check-in system is planned in cooperation with our volunteer fire and emergency departments.

Membership in the Maine Age-Friendly network will provide our committee with the support and information they need to make these ideas a reality, as well as introduce them to new ideas working in other towns. We hope you will grant us that opportunity!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul Crockett", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul Crockett,
Chair, Mount Vernon Select Board