

Application: 18423

Town of Francestown, NH

Started at: 3/5/2024 03:09 PM - Finalized at: 3/6/2024 04:50 PM

Page: Basic Information

Category

Flagship Grant

Flagship Grant Application

1. Common name of Applicant Organization (Max: 60 characters)

Town of Francestown, NH

Legal Name of Applicant Org

Street Address

27 Main Street

Street Address Line 2

PO Box 5

City

Francestown

State

New Hampshire

Zip / Postal Code

03043

3. Organization Point of Contact

YES

4. Organization Tax Status

A municipality

5. Organization Federal Tax Identification Number

026000288

Website

www.francestownnh.org

X Handle (formerly Twitter)

n/a

Facebook Page Name

n/a

7. Has your organization applied for an AARP Community Challenge previously?

No - Did not apply

8. How did you hear about this grant opportunity?

Other

Please specify

Southern NH Regional Planning Commission

Page: Community Details

Note: This information is for AARP's internal analysis only, and will not be used in award information, etc.

City

Francestown

County

Hillsborough

State

New Hampshire

Zip Code

03043

10. Would you describe this community as:

Rural

11. How many residents do you estimate will directly benefit from the project per year?

1370

Please estimate the percentage (%) of those residents that are age 50 or over:

51

Please explain:

We estimate in-person usage of the Town Offices to be 75% of the general population, with approximately 700 of those being age 50 and above. A super majority of those residents over the age of 50 utilize the Town Office for in-person visit versus online services due to technology challenges.

12. What will be the geographic scale of impact for this project?

Neighborhood impact in an area that is a community space (e.g., benches in a park would be 'neighborhood level' but are in a community-wide space)

Page: Project Details

- Partisan, political or election related activities
- Planning activities, assessments or surveys of communities without tangible engagement
- Studies with no follow-up action
- Publication of books or reports
- Acquisition of land and/or buildings
- Purchase of a vehicle (such as a car or truck)
- Sponsorships of other organizations' events or activities
- Research and development for a nonprofit endeavor
- Research and development for a for-profit endeavor
- The promotion of a for-profit entity and/or its products and service

13. Project Description

The Francestown Town Office Accessibility Project includes construction of an accessible walkway to the main entrance of the Town Offices providing free and easy access to all, regardless of ages and abilities. This fully accessible route will be designed and constructed to adhere to the latest ADA and PROWAG standards, enabling access from the public right-of-way along Main Street and from the handicap parking space at the side of the building. This reconstructed walkway will replace the existing walkways and steps that lead to the main entrance and lobby of the Town Offices. The work includes reconstruction of the entrance landing, redesign and regrading for the accessible walkways, new paving, and landscaping.

Additional work included in the project is to install accessible automatic doorways for the upper lobby and lower public meeting room. An existing restroom will be modified into a unisex handicap accessible restroom. The initial concept plan and preliminary site design has been reviewed and accepted by the Select Board.

In-kind services will be provided through volunteer design services of landscape and architectural architects, in-house equipment and labor for existing infrastructure demolition and earthen material acquisition. Other in-kind services will include project oversight services and financial and reporting administration.

14. Flagship Project Short Summary

This Project will redesign & construct accessible walkways, entryways and restroom facilities at the Town Offices to provide equitable access for residents and visitors, with a focus on those older adults that face physical or technology challenges.

AARP Community Challenge projects should be quick-action in nature and able to be completed by December 15, 2024. Please provide a brief project timeline using the month boxes below. **Be sure to include time to receive any municipal approvals, land-use agreements, request for proposals/contractor bidding process and approvals, impact of potential weather (heat, cold, rain), supply chain lead time, etc.**

NOTE: We anticipate that grantees will receive selection notifications in May and payment in June/July. Projects must be completed by December 15, 2024 and After-Action Reports are due December 31, 2024. Please see the [AARP Community Challenge Frequently Asked Questions](#) for more information on the grant cycle timeline.

June:

Complete landscape, architectural and site design drawings and engage sub-contractor(s) for the construction of the walkway(s), entrance platform, automatic door installation and restroom remodel.

July:

Construction startup, demolition of existing walkways, entrance landing, and existing architectural portico.

August:

Earthwork, grading, and reconstruction of entrance landing. Begin final surface of the walkways, currently options include, concrete, asphalt and/or hardscape pavers. Architectural construction of the building portico and accessible restroom.

September

Complete walkway surface, line-striping of parking areas, planting of flower gardens and seeding of grassy areas. Re-open primary offices for in-person use.

October

Final inspection, development and completion of project punch list.

November:

Ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony for the new community space

December:

After-Action reporting.

16. Land-Use Approvals

In Progress

Please Explain

The land is wholly owned by the municipality. Any permits required for the physical changes to the structure will be issued by the Building Inspector at the appropriate time during the construction of the project. There are no other known regulatory permits or approvals needed for the project.

17. Upload one attachment if needed.

No File Uploaded

18. Project Type

Permanent physical improvements in the community

19. Flagship Project Category

Create vibrant public places in the community through solutions that improve open spaces, parks and access to other amenities for residents (especially those 50-plus).

Public Places Subcategory

Public space activation with a focus on the needs of those 50-plus (e.g., public plaza improvements, parklets, street trees, alleyway activation, accessible seating and games in public spaces, seating along Main Street corridors, signage in neighborhoods)

20. Flagship Project Deliverables

Deliverables

Deliverable: The Town will engage a contractor to construct accessible walkways.

Quantity: 2

Deliverable: The Town will engage a contractor to construct an accessible landing, walls and entranceways to the Town Office building.

Quantity: 4

Deliverable: The Town will engage a volunteer committee over the course of the project to oversee the design, management and installation of the project. A minimum of half of the committee member will be 50 years or older.

Quantity: 5

Deliverable: The Town will purchase and install shrubs and perennial plantings to enhance the beauty of the public space.

Quantity: 25

Deliverable: The Town will purchase and install ADA compliant benches suitable for at least two people to motivate citizen interaction at 27 Main Street.

Quantity: 2

Deliverable: The Town will install AARP branded signage at 27 Main Street and 1 Old County Road South (pickleball and tennis courts).

Quantity: 3

Deliverable: The Town will purchase and install ADA compliant line striping and signage for a handicap accessible parking stall.

Quantity: 2

Deliverable: The Town will conduct outreach to the community to communicate the new aspects of the accessible walkways and community space. This outreach will include social media postings about the project as well as an announcement about the project in a local newspaper. The Town will also deliver programs and events, through its Recreation Department and Library to encourage healthy aging and intergenerational interactions with a focus on persons 50-plus.

Quantity: 8

Deliverable: The Town will engage volunteers over the course of the project to include the Francestown Garden Co-op to install the various plantings. A minimum of half the volunteers will be age 50 or older.

Quantity: 25

Deliverable: The Town will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony in early November with a goal of 100 attendees with at least half of the attendees being persons age 50 and above.

Quantity: 101

I. The Organization will purchase and install structures with LED lighting with custom side panels at (ADDRESS)

a. Quantity: 3

II. The Organization will purchase and install ADA compliant benches that will seat a minimum of two people at (ADDRESS)

a. Quantity: 7

III. The Organization will purchase and install AARP branded signage at (ADDRESS)

a. Quantity: 15

IV. The Organization will purchase and install accessible raised garden beds made of materials suitable for outdoor use

a. Quantity: 10

V. The Organization will hold event on (DATE) (event examples: workshops, hackathon, trainings)

a. Quantity: 1

VI. The Organization's goal is to have community members to be trained at workshops on 50+ issues, with at least half of attendees being age 50 and older.

a. Quantity: 250

VII. The Organization will hold a (kick-off, ribbon cutting, etc.) event on November 1, 2024.

a. Quantity: 1

VIII. The Organization has a goal of attendees at event, with at least half of attendees being age 50 and older.

a. Quantity: 400

IX. The Organization will engage volunteers over the course of the project – including painting accessible benches made of outdoor materials, installation, and the kick-off event, with half being age 50 and older.

a. Quantity: 70

21. Organizational Livable Communities Activities

The Francestown Main Street Historic District is at the center of the village that was founded in 1772. Once home to the 2nd longest continually operating village store in the country, the Village Store was reopened in 2020 after shuttering its doors for the first time in 2017. The store was upfitted with an accessible entrance and restroom and offers a variety of items including fresh fruits and vegetables to encourage a healthy diet.

During the 1990's permanent sidewalks were installed along Main Street, replacing a mere graveled pathway. Also during this time the Improvement and Historical Society's (FIHS) tennis courts were refurbished and have since been re-designed to allow for pickleball which has fast become an exciting multi-generational sport.

In 2013, the Library was upfitted with an elevator making all three floors accessible to all persons. The Library holds many programs geared towards the Town's aging population with computer training, historic research and arts & crafts. In 2017, the Town Hall underwent a renovation which included a LULA lift, making the 2nd floor accessible for the first time by persons of all abilities.

The Town has within the last 20 years dedicated 2 spaces as public museums. The Thulander Heritage Museum displays historic transportation vehicles including the pride of the Francestown Volunteer Fire Department, Mt. Crochet #1, an 1800's Hunneman Hand Tub. The 2nd is the Beehive, owned by the FIHS, displaying many historical artifacts of the Town and the former Academy.

The Recreation Dept. has made gains in opportunities for residents of all ages including, yoga classes, line dancing, coffeehouse concerts educational classes and more. The Conservation Comm. along with the Library and Land Trust offer educational programs to engage the residents natural resources.

The Francestown Town Office Accessibility Project only furthers the Town's efforts to make the community more inviting and livable for generations to come.

22. Community Engagement

The Town relies heavily on its residents, various boards and committees, along with three major non-profit organizations to make Francestown the livable community that it has become. The Francestown Garden Co-Op has long maintained several outdoor public spaces with shrubs and perennial plantings to beautify the historic Village Center.

The Francestown Improvement and Historical Society has assisted the Town with improvements and grants for over 100 years.

The Old Meeting House Inc. provides a space for community and social gatherings such as weddings, funerals, concerts, and most recently the "Sundays at Four" outdoor concert series developed during the pandemic.

Our various Town Boards, Committees and Departments continually engage our residents with educational programs involving nature, recycling, and healthy habits.

All these associations and Town Boards will be involved in the execution of this grant program through additional fundraising efforts and volunteer coordination.

23. Older Adults

The project will directly benefit residents age 50 and over, by granting accessible access to the business offices of the Town. The entrance is currently difficult to navigate by parents/grandparents with small children and residents that have any type of physical challenge that requires the use of a cane or walker.

24. Role of Volunteers

Yes

Please explain how volunteers will be involved in implementing the project:

Volunteers will be heavily involved during the implementation of this project, through organizing additional funding efforts, garden plantings and hand labor.

Will volunteers age 50 and older play a role in implementing the project?

Yes

Please explain:

The Town plans to engage as many volunteers over the age of 50 to implement this project. Having a population of over 50% of all residents, this age group is essential to this project.

25. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

No

26. Addressing Disparities

Yes

Please describe how project will improve or address existing disparities:

This project will allow residents to access the Town Offices with ease and comfort.

27. Veterans and Military Families

Yes

Please describe how project will have an emphasis on veterans and their families:

The project will incorporate an existing memorial to PFC Harding Foote whom served in the US Air Force. PFC Foote was born in 1921 and passed in 1943. (A picture of the memorial is included in the submission file.)

Page: Project Budget

28. Liability insurance requirement

Yes

Please include the total grant request and specify all expenses that will be covered by this grant.

- AARP reserves the right to award less funds than requested – applicants should be prepared to discuss how they would scale down their proposal if asked.
- The AARP Community Challenge will typically only award grants that spend 0-15% on indirect, overhead, and staff costs. However, AARP reserves the right to award compelling projects that go beyond this range.
- Project marketing, branding, etc. can and should be included in project budget. Please budget for any banners, stickers, etc. you'll need to purchase for your project to align with the AARP's branding requirements.
- Details on the requirements for insurance, limits on indirect costs and branding are described on the [AARP Community Challenge Frequently Asked Questions](#) webpage.

Enter whole numbers only in the amount field. No \$ dollar sign, cents or commas.

TOTAL GRANT AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$

150000

CONTRACTED SERVICE COSTS, IF ANY: \$

80000

Contracted Service Additional Information:

MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, IF ANY: \$

60000

Materials and Supplies Additional Information:

TRAVEL EXPENSES, IF ANY: \$

0

Travel Additional Information:

MARKETING, BRANDING, OR OUTREACH, IF ANY: \$

500

Marketing, Branding, or Outreach Additional Information:

LIABILITY INSURANCE, IF ANY: \$

0

Liability Insurance Additional Information

INDIRECT, OVERHEAD, AND STAFF COSTS, IF ANY: \$

0

Indirect, Overhead, and Staff Costs Additional Information:

Matching funds are NOT required. Please detail any matching/supporting funds or in-kind support the organization will receive to contribute toward this project. Include volunteer/donated work as in-kind support.

NONPROFIT Matching Funds: \$

NONPROFIT In-Kind Support:

PRIVATE Matching Funds: \$

30000

PRIVATE In-Kind Support:

Landscape & Architectural Design Services

PUBLIC Matching Funds: \$

5000

PUBLIC In-Kind Support:

Line striping and signage

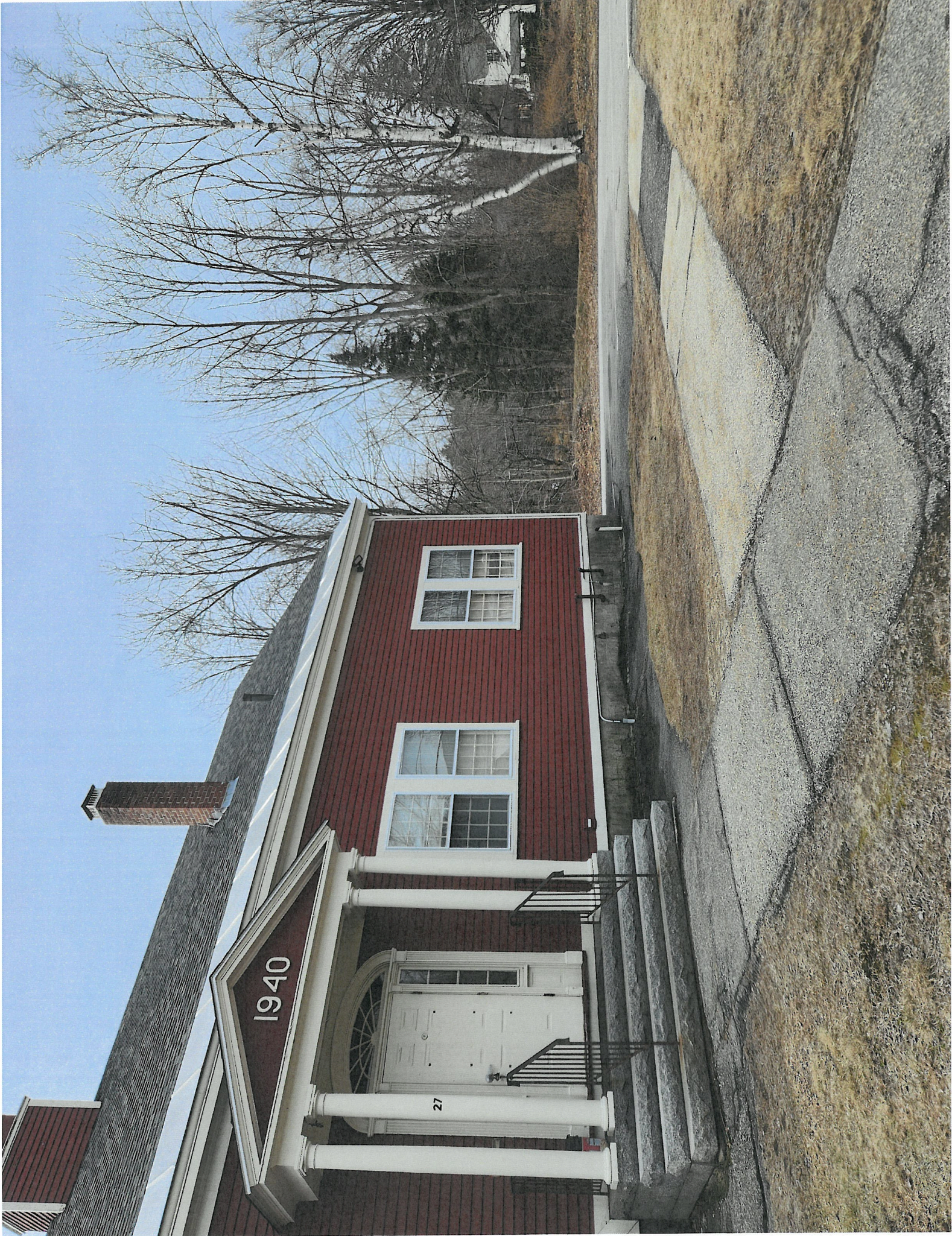
31. Other Funding

Yes

An opportunity for other possible AARP funding. Please note that by submitting a proposal for the AARP Community Challenge initiative, you and your organization give AARP permission to reach out to you and others at your organization about other possible AARP funding opportunities that your proposal may be eligible for based on the AARP Community Challenge criteria. However, please note that AARP is not obligated in any way to consider your proposal for any additional AARP funding.

When you SUBMIT this application, you will receive a confirmation email within the hour. Please make sure to check your spam folder if you do not see it. If you do NOT receive a submission confirmation, you have NOT submitted successfully. Please go back and make sure you completed ALL required questions and did not go over the text box character limits.

All applicants will be notified of their selection by email in May 2024. To receive funding, selected applicants must execute and return a binding Memorandum of Understanding and completed financial forms to the AARP National office in a timely manner.



1940

27







IN MEMORY OF
REG. HARDING FOOTER
AUG. 5, 1921
SEPT. 21, 1943
346 SERVICE SQ. TEXAS A&M

IN MEMORY OF
R.F.C. HARDING FOOTTE

AUG. 5. 1921

SEPT. 21. 1943

346 SERVICE SQ. U.S.A.F.



NOTES:

1. REFER TO THE PLAN OF THE PROJECT FOR THE LOCATION OF THE TREE.
2. TREE TO REMAIN.
3. TREE TO BE REMOVED.
4. TREE TO BE PLANTED.
5. TREE TO BE PLANTED WITH PROTECTIVE FENCING.
6. TREE TO BE PLANTED WITH PROTECTIVE FENCING AND MULCH.
7. TREE TO BE PLANTED WITH PROTECTIVE FENCING AND MULCH AND WATERING.
8. TREE TO BE PLANTED WITH PROTECTIVE FENCING AND MULCH AND WATERING AND FERTILIZER.
9. TREE TO BE PLANTED WITH PROTECTIVE FENCING AND MULCH AND WATERING AND FERTILIZER AND MULCH.
10. TREE TO BE PLANTED WITH PROTECTIVE FENCING AND MULCH AND WATERING AND FERTILIZER AND MULCH AND WATERING.

EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN
MAP 13 / LOT 6
TOWN OF
FRANCESTOWN
27 MAIN STREET
TOWN OF FRANCESTOWN
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, NEW HAMPSHIRE

SANDFORD
SUBSISTENT ENGINEERING

TEL: 603.882.2200
 FAX: 603.882.2201
 1000 N. MAIN ST., SUITE 100, FRANCES TOWN, NH 03042
 1000 N. MAIN ST., SUITE 100, FRANCES TOWN, NH 03042
 1000 N. MAIN ST., SUITE 100, FRANCES TOWN, NH 03042
 1000 N. MAIN ST., SUITE 100, FRANCES TOWN, NH 03042

SCALE: 1" = 10'-0"

REVISIONS

NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION



FRANCESTOWN TOWN OFFICES ACCESSIBLE ENTRY ALTERNATIVE 1



SIGNED HC PARKING & STRIPED AISLE
 ACCESSIBLE WALKWAY
 EXISTING MAPLE TO REMAIN W/ TREE WELL
 RELOCATE FLAG POLE
 REPLACE EX. WALK WITH NEW WALKWAY W/STEPS, REUSE EX. ENTRY GRANITE
 NEW TREE PLANTING: FLOWERING OR PAPER BIRCH (STATE TREE)

NEW PLANTING:
 LOW SHRUBS &
 PERENNIALS

RAIN GARDEN
 REBUILT LANDING AREA
 RETAINING WALLS

NOTES
 1. ALL PLANTINGS TO BE INSTALLED BY CONTRACTOR TO MATCH EXISTING
 2. ALL PLANTINGS TO BE INSTALLED BY CONTRACTOR TO MATCH EXISTING
 3. ALL PLANTINGS TO BE INSTALLED BY CONTRACTOR TO MATCH EXISTING
 4. ALL PLANTINGS TO BE INSTALLED BY CONTRACTOR TO MATCH EXISTING
 5. ALL PLANTINGS TO BE INSTALLED BY CONTRACTOR TO MATCH EXISTING
 6. ALL PLANTINGS TO BE INSTALLED BY CONTRACTOR TO MATCH EXISTING
 7. ALL PLANTINGS TO BE INSTALLED BY CONTRACTOR TO MATCH EXISTING

EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN
 MAP 15 / LOT 6
 TOWN OF
 FRANCESTOWN
 27 MAIN STREET
 TOWN OF FRANCESTOWN
 HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, NEW HAMPSHIRE
SANDFORD
 ENGINEERING
 1000 STATE STREET, SUITE 100
 PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801
 TEL: 603.882.2282 FAX: 603.882.2281
 WWW.SANDFORDENGINEERING.COM
 PROJECT NO. 2023-001
 SHEET NO. 15-06
 SCALE: AS SHOWN
 DATE: 10/20/23

FRANCESTOWN TOWN OFFICES ACCESSIBLE ENTRY ALTERNATIVE 2

REVISIONS

NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY

Fix lighting ✕



PAMELA FINNELL, TOWN CLERK - TAX COLLECTOR

TOWN OF FRANCESTOWN, NH

27 MAIN STREET / P.O. BOX 67, FRANCESTOWN, NH 03043-0067

PH: 603-547-6251 / Email: townclerk@francestownnh.org

March 6, 2024

Town of Francestown
c/o Jamie A. Pike, Town Administrator
PO Box 5
Francestown, NH 03043

Re: Building Access

Dear Mr. Pike,

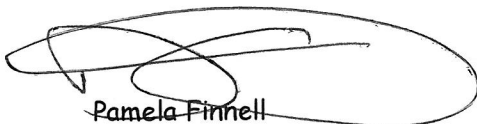
I write on behalf of the office of the Town Clerk/Tax Collector in support of plans to alter the Francestown Town Office building to improve access for all citizens. Specifically, the proposed alterations will allow elderly and physically challenged citizens to gain full access to all services offered by the Town Clerk & Tax Collector's office which currently has limited access.

The Town Clerk/Tax Collector office handles an estimated 2500 in-person general transactions each year, with significant traffic increases during Property Tax Billing season in July and December. A large majority of those visitors are over the age of 50. The office also serves a great number of older citizens who have technology challenges preventing them from completing transactions online. The current entrance to the Town Offices includes 5 steps and a heavy door which is difficult for some residents to navigate.

The proposed improvements will greatly improve access, not only for all citizens, but especially for those with agility challenges.

Best of luck with the AARP Grant application. You have full support of the Office of the Francestown Town Clerk/Tax Collector.

Sincerely,



Pamela Finnell
Town Clerk/Tax Collector

FRANCESTOWN IMPROVEMENT  HISTORICAL SOCIETY

March 6, 2024

Town of Francetown
c/o Jamie Pike, Town Administrator
P.O. Box 5
Francetown, NH 03043

Dear Mr. Pike,

I write on behalf of the Francetown Improvement & Historical Society (FIHS) in support of plans to alter the Francetown Town Office building to improve access for all citizens. Specifically, the proposed alterations will allow elderly and handicapped citizens to gain full access to all facilities offered: Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Administration, etc.,; now very limited.

As our name indicates, FIHS has two missions: history and improvement. First, the current Francetown Town Office is located in the former Red School House, built in 1940 on land that was once home to the 19th century Brunswick Hotel. It is important that this building continues to be used for the official business of the Town of Francetown by providing access to all citizens. Second, FIHS is always mindful of improvements in Francetown that enhance the experience for all. Whether that our own renovations to the two-hundred year old Francetown Village Store, where we did add handicap access, or the Town's renovation of the equally old Town Hall, we always support the betterment of facilities for the greater good.

Good luck with the AARP Grant application, you have the support of the Francetown Improvement & Historical Society.

Sincerely,



Charles M. Pyle, President
Francetown Improvement & Historical Society



The Old Meeting House of Francestown, Inc.
Box 213
Francestown, New Hampshire 03043

RECEIVED

MAR 06 2024

TOWN OF FRANCESTOWN

Jamie Pike, Town Administrator
27 Main St.
Francestown, NH 03043

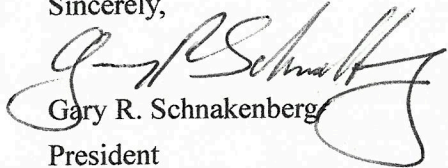
5 March 2024

Dear Jamie,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Old Meetinghouse, I would like to offer our support for the proposed changes to the Town Offices that increase accessibility and your pursuit of a grant to accomplish those ends. The demographics of our town make this project a needed one, and all indications are that this need will only become more pronounced. We have ourselves begun discussions at the Old Meeting House in order to find ways to address those same needs, but the Town Offices represent, in my opinion, an even greater priority for such a project.

I wish you luck in the grant application process, and please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything else I can do to further this valuable effort.

Sincerely,


Gary R. Schnakenberg
President



Town of Francestown

Office of the Selectmen

27 Main Street, P.O. Box 5
Francestown, New Hampshire 03043
(603) 547-3469
www.francestownnh.org

March 5, 2024

*Town of Francestown
Jamie Pike, Town Administrator
P.O. Box 5
27 Main Street
Francestown, NH 03043*

*Re: AARP Challenge Grant
Town Office's Accessibility Entrances*

Dear Jamie,

I am very excited about the AARP Challenge Grant opportunity for the Town Office's entrances. As you know, my desk faces the front entrance of the building and I see our residents struggle daily with the front door. Our main entrance includes 4 steps from the walkway to the landing and an additional 5th step into the building. This entrance is exceptionally challenging to our older residents, anyone walking with a cane or crutches, and adults with young children and strollers. As the door isn't automated, it is cumbersome to pull it open from the outside, transfer your hand to the inside, and then hold it open while navigating a step into the building. The chairs in the lobby are often used by our older residents after navigating the entrance. We need this building to be accessible to all residents, not just the young and fit. Our residents with wheelchairs or those unable to navigate steps cannot enter the main portion of the building. They have to drive around to the back, ring the outside doorbell, and wait to be let in. They have bathroom access, but they do not have access to all the notifications posted by law regarding municipality government. Those individuals have to wait for assistance away from the public and staff. When their staff member is researching their inquiry upstairs, they are left alone downstairs. This is unfair and potentially unsafe. If we are recipients of the AARP Challenge Grant, then our residents – ALL OF THEM – will not only be able to conduct their business in person, but also appreciate a beautiful new entrance with benches and gardens to visit with one another. This entrance will visually and physically welcome our community to the Town Offices and provide an outdoor space for community interaction.

Thank you for coordinating this project and making this accessibility idea a potential reality.

Respectfully,

*Monica Harrington
Administrative ass*

Karen Fitzgerald, PLA
1222 Bennington Road
Francestown, NH 03043
(603) 660-1241

March 6, 2024

Town of Francestown
c/o Jamie A Pike, Town Administrator
PO Box 5
Francestown, NH 03043

Dear Mr. Pike,

I am very excited about the opportunities the Francestown Town Office Accessibility Project brings to the residents of Francestown. While this project will benefit all persons of any age, it will especially benefit those residents over the age of 50 and have physical challenges accessing the Town Office.

The Town Office is the primary location in the Town's center village district, where most financial transactions occur between the Town and its residents. The Town Office encompasses the Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Building Inspector and Administration offices. These offices collect over 75% of the Town's financial resources.

I am pleased to support this project by providing pro bono landscape architectural services (valued at \$15,000).

Best of luck in your pursuit of the 2024 AARP Challenge grant, you have my full support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Fitzgerald". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Fitzgerald".

Karen Fitzgerald
Professional Landscape Architect



Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission

438 Dubuque Street, Manchester, NH 03102-3546, Telephone (603) 669-4664 Fax (603) 669-4350
www.snhpc.org

March 6, 2024

Jamie Pike, Town Administrator
Town of Francestown
27 Main St.
Francestown, NH 03043

RE: AARP Community Challenge Grant Support Letter for the Town of Francestown, NH

Dear Mr. Pike:

In 2017, Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission (SNHPC) completed initial age-friendly assessments for all our 14 member communities. Although Francestown has the smallest population in the SNHPC region (approx. 1,640) compared to all other communities with up to 115,000 in population, they had the highest participation rate during our individual community assessment forums.

It was clear then and it remains true now that the rural residents of Francestown are interested in their community, care deeply, and want to participate in local meetings and events.

The project Francestown is proposing for the AARP Community Challenge Grant Program, construction of an accessible walkway into their Town Offices will ensure the building is accessible to residents of all abilities. This project will help all residents to stay involved in their community.

The SNHPC fully supports this project and their work on becoming a more age-friendly community.

Sincerely,

Sylvia von Aulock
Executive Director
Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission