



## **Grassroots Fund Awards Eliot Aging in Place Committee**

The New England Grassroots Environment Fund has awarded the Eliot Aging in Place Committee (AIP) a \$1,000 grant to support the community as it responds to the COVID 19 outbreak.

Since the announcement that social isolation would become a key aspect of avoiding COVID 19, the AIP has contemplated how to assist Eliot residents to stay at home safely. The AIP was created by the Eliot Select Board to develop a more livable community and to assist Eliot residents to age in their homes. A recent conversation with State Representative Michele Meyer, creator of Eliot Strong, has led to a collaboration to do just that. Eliot Strong is a Facebook page designed to be a community support forum for Eliot. In a matter of weeks, the membership expanded to over 1200 members who are finding ways to support and help one another rather than feeling cut off from the world, alone, and afraid. Volunteers have been lending a hand to deliver food and medications to those safe at home. Through this Facebook page, neighbors have shared advice and resources; listened to each other's needs; and responded beyond the need for food delivery. A "mask bank" is now available for Eliot seniors and other medically vulnerable community members. The AIP will provide funding to support the purchase of food, medication, and other vital supplies that can be delivered through this newly created network. Funding for this collaboration is provided by the New England Grassroots Environment Fund.

The Grassroots Fund is dedicated to co-creating healthy and sustainable communities throughout New England. Grassroots Fund and organizations working across a broad range of environmental and social justice issues. By helping them identify, select and access the specific tools, resources and connections they need to challenge existing systems, groups are able to develop lasting solutions to the complex problems affecting the places they live and the health of the people who live there. Grassroots Fund supports

changemakers who face systemic and structural barriers to traditional funding. To learn more about grant-making activities visit [www.grassrootsfund.org](http://www.grassrootsfund.org).

The AIP anticipates that this partnership with Eliot Strong will last beyond the coronavirus pandemic and set the stage for community volunteers to assist Eliot in creating a more livable community for all ages. Eliot residents who are in need or use know others in need, should contact Ellen Ceppetelli at [ellencepp@gmail.com](mailto:ellencepp@gmail.com) sold