AGING-IN-PLACE NOTIFICATION

New Park Benches Installed at the Boat Basin in Eliot, ME

Eliot, Me- Dec.28,2020 The Eliot Boat Basin, known locally as “Dead Duck”, on the banks of the Piscataqua River, is a hub of activity in the spring, summer & fall, with boats being launched and pulled out, hikers exploring the walking trails, families enjoying the playground, and picnicking at the covered tables. There’s also a pavilion for community events. However, the Eliot Aging in Place Committee (AIP) realized there were few places to just sit, watch the activity, and enjoy the surroundings.

The committee applied for and received a 2020 AARP Challenge Grant to purchase and install five park benches. It was a community effort with volunteers putting the benches together, and the Public Works department transporting them to the Boat Basin and installing them. Several benches are located at the waterfront, others are in the playground area. They all carry an attractive plaque documenting the AARP Grant. The placement of the benches will enhance the beauty of this public park and create a more vibrant Eliot Boat Basin. The benches are an invitation for anyone, but particularly for older adults, to walk safely, socialize, enjoy nature, and observe the river without fear of vehicular traffic. They’re also easily accessible, furthering AIP’s commitment to build on Eliot’s strengths to enhance residents’ ability to age in place, regardless of age.

There are many more projects in the planning stage. Volunteer help for a short-term project or longer commitment is welcomed. To learn more, contact committee chair, Ellen Ceppetelli. aipellencepp@gmail.com