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## Coastal Neighbors Press Release

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**Coastal Neighbors Network**  
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# PRESS RELEASE

## Coastal Neighbors Network Expands into Westport

Appoints Westport advocate, Gay Gillespie to Board

Westport, MA (September 1, 2020) - Coastal Neighbors Network announced today that it is expanding its support to include the Westport Community. For the last three years, the organization has been solely focused on Dartmouth residents but after exploratory conversations with the Westport community, determined there was a need. Applications are now being accepted for both sustaining and service membership for older residents who wish to live safely and comfortably in their own homes.

Executive Director, Andy Pollock commented, “For several months we have been exploring the possibility of helping Westport through focus group meetings. The reception we received was incredibly enthusiastic and the input invaluable. We are excited to branch out into the area and are already seeing the benefit of Westport and Dartmouth folks coming together to help one another. This is exactly what the Village Movement is all about.”

The Coastal Neighbors network of volunteers and its committees now include involvement from both Dartmouth and Westport residents. The Board of Directors has expanded to include Gay Gillespie, a longtime resident of the area and former Executive Director of the Westport River Watershed Alliance. Gay is also a board member of the Westport Cultural Council and Westport Friends of Council on Aging.

“I’ve been a fan of the Coastal Neighbors organization for some time now and the difference they have been making for Dartmouth residents,” stated new Board member Gay Gillespie. “I knew if I could use their help with things like

light chores and referrals to home health care agencies so could many of my Westport neighbors. It was a natural to have them expand to include the area and I'm excited to be part of the core team to make that happen."

Coastal Neighbors Network is a membership-based, non-profit focused on enabling people to "Age in Place" independently and actively. Originally established in 2017, the organization is one of a rapidly growing network of Villages across the country providing one-to-one services and group events - as well as a breadth of information and support from the Board of Directors, vetted volunteers, and preferred providers - so Dartmouth and future Westport members can stay connected to their community and live comfortably. Some of the more popular services and social events include rides to medical appointments, help with small household chores, potluck suppers, and outings. In addition to membership services, Coastal Neighbors volunteers also participate in broader community support such as neighborly check-ins, food deliveries, and mask-making when needed.

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#### Board of Directors

Kate Fentress, Chair  
**Steve Kiechel, Vice-Chair**  
Margot Hand, Secretary  
Chris Strasser, Treasurer

Gay Gillespie  
**Kim Goddard**  
Gretchen Graef  
Margaret Jones  
Nancy Kurtz

Mia Lahti  
**Lisa Mellgard**  
Dock Murdock  
Paula Walsh



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The Mission of Coastal Neighbors Network is to enable Dartmouth residents aged 50 and over to remain at home and to stay connected through a range of services provided by

volunteers and approved vendors. We are a non-profit membership organization dedicated to the concept of Aging in Place.

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