



## Membership Application

To join the **AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities** and **WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly**

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE 3/25/2015

### 1) COMMUNITY DETAILS

**NAME OF THE COMMUNITY :** Town of Kennebunk

**STATE :** Maine

**POPULATION SIZE :** 12,674 estimate based on latest census and growth projections

**PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60 :** approx. 25%

**NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT :** Kevin Donovan, Chairman of Board of Selectmen.

**OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER :** Kennebunk Town Hall, 1 Summer St., Kennebunk Maine 04043

### 2) COMMUNITY CONTACT\* FOR THE AARP NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

\* The community contact is the local staff member or volunteer who is primarily responsible for carrying out the community-level work — it is not the responsible AARP staff member.

**DESCRIBE THE NAMED PERSON'S ROLE IN THE CITY OR COMMUNITY'S AGE-FRIENDLY INITIATIVE :** As Town Planner, Judy works with and assists many of the town's boards and committees town departments as they work to address the existing and future needs of the Community. In addition, as part of her membership on the No Place Like Home working group, Judy will be working to gather and distribute information to residents about the needs of the town's growing elderly population and will help all the town departments become more educated about and plan for the existing and future needs of our elderly residents.

### 3) THE COMMUNITY'S AGE-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES TO DATE

**Please provide a brief summary of the community policies, programs and services that are targeted toward older people and how the community plans to become more age-friendly.**

Kennebunk is a community that has retained many of older residents as they became empty nester households and has also been an attractive retirement community for many older residents . Our traditional village areas offer a variety of housing types, including apartments for elderly , condominiums , and several nursing homes and assisted living communities . We also have several private health care provider companies that provide regular assistance and services to our elderly residents who require some form of ongoing assistance in order to remain in their homes. One of our Comprehensive Plan goals recognizes the need to foster public/private partnerships in order to address the housing needs of all age groups and all income levels in the community, and we believe we have been quite successful in working to implement this goal. We have town operated, funded and supported programs that benefit seniors. General Assistance and Food outreach programs assist low income seniors with food heat and housing. Community - based programs, like A Place to Start, connects families to resources in order to help support loved ones dealing with Alzheimer's diagnosis. The Senior Center has been providing social, educational and cultural programming to older adults for 25 years.

#### **4) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

##### **How will the community engage and involve older people in the process of becoming a more age-friendly?**

Kennebunk is extremely lucky to have the newly formed non-profit organization - No Place Like Home - located in our community and we have committed to actively working with this group to continue their effort to plan for the needs of our aging population. No Place Like Home was established in August of 2014. It's mission is to "build an age-friendly community that helps older adults thrive in their homes and neighborhoods, and remain engaged and valued." It is also important for all of our various town departments to solicit feedback from our elderly residents regarding the various town services we provide. In addition to gathering input from older adults, and their families, we want to hear from other residents about their understanding of how to become more age-friendly. It is important to note that many of our seniors are quite involved in local government affairs, as well as serving on many of the various town boards and committees and, we will continue to encourage input from our older residents in order to understand and attempt to fully address the short and long term needs of all our residents.

#### **5) CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION**

##### **Briefly describe the mechanisms the community has or is planning to put in place to facilitate collaborative planning and implementation between different agencies and departments.**

As previously mentioned, the Town is currently working with the No Place Like Home organization to further the mission of building an age-friendly community by helping older adults to thrive in their homes and remain engaged and valued. Additionally, the town will continue to work with and gather information from other town agencies - like the Senior Center and the Kennebunk Free Library, as they have frequent contacts with the elderly in the area.. Town staff will certainly continue to encourage residents of all ages to participate in our community planning process and provide ongoing feedback about services, housing options and public improvements that the town may need to pursue in order to more fully address the needs of all age groups in town. No Place Like Home convenes a monthly Working Group, which includes representatives from several local nonprofits ( Senior Center, A Place to Start, York County Community Action Corp., the church community, neighborhood associations, home health agencies, active and retired professionals, gerontologists, nurses, The Southern Maine Agency on Aging, Meals on Wheels, and AARP. The Town Planner has been active in this group since its founding. A specific goal is to directly see the input of older adults, and assure that their voices are heard and influence decision - making, policies and programs. Another goal of the

Working Group is to share information and issues affecting older adults in Kennebunk and task groups will be created to address specific needs.