



Membership Application

To join the **AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities** and the **World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities**

- If you have questions while completing this form, please email me@arp.org or call 866-554-5380
- If you need additional space for answering the questions you may add an additional sheet of paper.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 4/18/2016

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Berwick

STATE: Maine

POPULATION SIZE: 7,246 (2010 Census)

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 16.5%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT:

Stephen Eldridge, Town Manager

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 11 Sullivan Street Berwick, Maine

Section 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.

NAME: James Bellissimo.

POSITION: Chair – Envision Berwick

EMAIL ADDRESS: Bellissimo247@Gmail.com

TELEPHONE NUMBER: (207)475-8413

Please describe the named person's role in the city or community's age-friendly initiative:

James is helping to craft the survey and grant application, he and members of Envision Berwick will work together to create an "Age Friendly Berwick" committee. Envision Berwick is a town appointed committee which serves to implement the Town's comprehensive plan. The Board of Selectman have approved moving forward with the AARP program, and have called upon Envision Berwick to help facilitate the program. James and Envision Berwick facilitate these meetings to help the Town of Berwick create an action plan to address needs found in the survey results. The goal for James is to motivate and galvanize a committee to take the next steps to finding programs and services needed, or help to build them in town.

Section 3: COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, ENGAGEMENTS and COLLABORATIONS

1) 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.

Because Berwick has been historically a smaller community, many services are provided by county based programs such as York County Communitiy Action, and Seacoast regional programs. In town we do have Berwick Meadows, affordable elderly housing. The COAST bus has a route stop & pickup in Berwick. For riders above the age of 65 years old receive half off their fare. The Table of Plenty and Berwick Methodist church offer weekly free meals to the community .

As part of our comprehensive plan we have bike lanes, centralized shops and services and a plan for 40% functional green space i.e. parks. We also have plans for adequate benches, increased walkability and have a plan for a new community center in town.

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

The first main piece of enagement is the community wide survey for the 50+ population in Berwick. We will have a presentation and a public discussion. The Envision Berwick chair will make smaller presentations to Berwick groups such as Preservation and Heritage, Berwick Historical Society and the Leigion to spread awareness and recruit for the cause .

The “Age Friendly Berwick” committee will be a coalition of sorts that will discuss the implications of the report, and work together to publish a plan to address the needs discovered in the report. The survey will be distributed to people over 50 and a special effort will be made to assure the residents are involved in each step along the way.

3) 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.

We will be contacting The Southern Maine Area on Aging and other regional agencies that the town of Berwick already supports. The “Age Friendly Berwick” committee will pull in members of different committes and departments in the town of Berwick such as Selectman, the Berwick library and others.

Section 4: NETWORK MEMBERSHIP

Your answers to the following questions will help us complete your membership in the global age-friendly network and better enable us to understand how to support the network.

4) How do you hope to contribute to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

We hope to be an example of a successful program, as well as being a resource for other communities who are also looking to become Age-Friendly.

5) What motivated your community to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

We believe it is the perfect time to implement policies at such a time of imminent change in our community.

All the emerging data on the demographics clearly illustrates a need, and it is no different in Berwick, and within that need a challenge, but more importantly an opportunity.

Also we believe that becoming age-friendly is important, and something that was missing from our 2014 Vision Report, we feel that becoming age-friendly will help reinforce our 2014 community vision, and will highlight needs we may have missed.

6) Please provide a digital file or link of a logo or other image that represents your community.

The image resolution should be at least 72 dpi. As an example of an image, here's ours >



http://www.berwickmaine.org/vertical/Sites/%7BF8989633-A21B-4E16-9C5C-F6FA24E87BCC%7D/uploads/%7B3CF84467-678E-4D8A-9B7A-FF8EF8270D98%7D_Web.jpg