



Town of Woodstock, Maine

Est. 1815

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Bryant Pond, ME 04219

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February 16, 2016

Lori Parham
State Director, AARP
53 Baxter Blvd., Suite 202
Portland, ME 04101

Dear Ms. Parham,

Town of Woodstock is excited about the possibilities of working with Bethel and the surrounding towns on Age Friendly Community on a regional basis. Many of the residents of this town are over 60 and the more we can make it safe and healthy, the better for everyone. One goal is to make it easier for older people to remain in their homes.

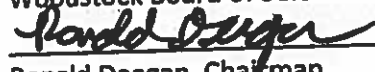
Woodstock works frequently with Bethel on school (SAD #44) and other regional issues. Bethel serves as the service center for many things for residents of Woodstock. The Bethel Area Health Center and Rite Aid pharmacy are a couple of good examples. Many of the Bethel Area Chamber of Commerce activities extend beyond the town lines.

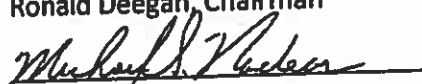
Woodstock wants to join the Bethel Age-Friendly effort.

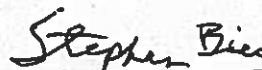
Woodstock has already had an introductory meeting in the town at the Woodstock Library to explore age-friendly issues. We will continue to have more to determine any joint efforts like transportation, and needs unique to Woodstock.

It is anticipated that the Age-Friendly Community Project, under the auspices of the AARP's Network of Age-Friendly Communities, will draw upon the resources available to satisfy the needs of Woodstock's aging population. The Town's leadership strongly supports this project. Therefore the Town of Woodstock seeks to join the Bethel Age-Friendly effort and provide a better environment for our older residents and visitors.

Woodstock Board of Selectmen


Ronald Deegan, Chairman


Michael S. Nadeau



Stephen P. Bies



Membership Application

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

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 2/11/16

1) **COMMUNITY DETAILS**

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Town of Woodstock

STATE: Maine

POPULATION SIZE: 1,300

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: approximately 40%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Board of Selectmen (Chair, Ron Deegan) and Town Manager Vern Maxfield

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: PO Box 317, Bryant Pond, ME 04219

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: Jane Chandler

POSITION: Community Organizer

EMAIL ADDRESS: jane.h.chandler@gmail.com

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 207-357-3524

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

Jane Chandler has been active in the community of Woodstock since 1976, when she moved there to raise her children. She was a charter member of Tri-Town Rescue, volunteered for 25 years serving in several leadership positions. She has served on the Conservation Commission and the Bicentennial Committee. She works as a nurse with Androscoggin Home Care and Hospice, working up close and personal with the people of Woodstock, Greenwood, and Bethel for 21 years. She is also active with the Mahoosuc Land Trust in Bethel and the West Parish Congregational Church UCC in Bethel.

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.

Woodstock has a library in the center of town that offers a monthly educational program open to all ages, more often serving the elderly. The basement is a meeting room that is used by various groups, including the Quakers. The Woodstock and Greenwood senior citizens gather monthly for socialization and a meal. The Woodstock Historical Society has a monthly informational meeting. The Bryant Pond Baptist Church offers services and outreach to all ages, including a bus that picks up young and old that need transportation to services. The Seventh Day Adventist Church offers a community-based food pantry on a monthly basis.

Woodstock does a lot with our neighboring communities, specifically Greenwood, Bethel, Newry, and Gilead, communities in the school district. The Bethel Area Health Center is located in Bethel.

Jane and Jim Chandler led an informational and organizational meeting for Age Friendly Community at the Woodstock Library on Feb. 11, 2016. A total of 28 people from Woodstock completed the Bethel Age-Friendly survey. The most critical issues are transportation, affordable housing, long-term in home services, and home maintenance.

4) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

Woodstock has formed a sub-committee of the Bethel Age-Friendly Community Project. Two members of this committee serve on the Bethel committee for coordination of activities.

It is anticipated that the Age-Friendly Community Project, under the auspices of the AARP's Network of Age-Friendly Communities, will draw upon the resources available to satisfy the needs of Woodstock's aging population. The Town's leadership strongly supports this project. Therefore the Town of Woodstock seeks to join the Bethel Age-Friendly effort and provide a better environment for our older residents and visitors.

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.

Bethel and its neighboring communities are fortunate in hosting organizations that believe strongly in collaboration. In agreement with these groups, we are certain we will be able to develop specific projects to accomplish our mission. The Age-Friendly Community Project will focus specifically on the needs of our seniors. However, we will also form partnerships with organizations whose mission may be to provide healthy food, access to affordable housing, transportation, or any of the other topics covered by the "domains." These coordinated efforts will, in the end, make Bethel and surrounding towns more livable for all its citizens. We believe that many of the resources needed are already here. We just need to identify them, make the citizens aware of their availability, and build on what we already have.