



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 livable@aarpp.org.
- If you need additional space for answering the questions you may add an additional sheet of paper.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 2/8/2017

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Bar Harbor

STATE: Maine

POPULATION SIZE: 5,269 (year round)

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 24.7%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Paul Paradis, Chair, Bar Harbor Town Council

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 93 Cottage Street, Bar Harbor, ME 04609

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.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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

Doreen Willett is the Chairperson of the Bar Harbor Task Force on Aging

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.

The plan of the Bar Harbor Task Force on Aging is to assess/survey the community to better understand and determine the unmet needs of the community. Currently, there are no community policies in place. There are many programs and services existing within the 8 domains of Livability targeted to the senior population. They are: Outdoor Spaces – the majestic Acadia National Park and other natural/public parks, venues; Transportation – Free transportation options are available through Island Connections and the Island Explorer>(*during the tourist season). At Home MDI is a paid option with a sliding scale transportation program. Overall, there is limited public transportation; Housing – Currently there are 3 public subsidized housing structures available to seniors through the MDI/Ellsworth Housing Authority. Housing is also available at the Birch Bay Village Retirement Community; Social Participation and Respect & Inclusion – Social participation venues include the Abbe Museum, Acadia Senior College, Adult Education, College of the Atlantic, Criterion Theatre, Jesup Library, Art Waves, MDI YMCA, YWCA MDI, Senior Coffee's On at the Maine Seacoast Mission; Reel Pizza's offering of Senior Matinee's and events sponsored by local churches; Civic Participation and Employment – There are employment opportunities predominantly in the height of the tourist season while there are numerous volunteer opportunities year round; Communication and Information – The Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce, MDIslander and the Jesup Library are great resources for this purpose; Community and Health Services – There are a variety of healthcare providers both traditional and non-traditional, Healthy Acadia a community agency dedicated to building healthy communities and an active food pantry for those community members living with food insecurity.

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

The Town of Bar Harbor conducted a public solicitation for volunteers to become members of the newly conceived Task Force on Aging which included being interviewed and approved by Town Council members. The 7 member Task Force on Aging, which includes a member of the Town Council, was set into motion in August 2016. The Task Force meets monthly to successfully create a plan of action for becoming an Age-Friendly community. Although not a member, the Town Manager has attended all of the monthly meetings showing his full support of the Task Force. All members of the Task Force are AARP eligible. This group will seek and encourage seniors participation in the survey process as well as create Focus and Discussion Groups to help uncover and shape the needs of the senior population for the purpose of becoming an Age Friendly Community.

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.

The intention of the Bar Harbor Task Force on Aging is to facilitate planning and implementation and will involve each committee member being responsible for chairing a subcommittee for one of the Eight Domains of Livability: Outdoor Spaces and Buildings; Transportation; Housing; Social Participation; Respect and Social Inclusion; Civic Participation and Employment; Communication and Information and Community Support and Health Services. This work will include community members outside of the Task Force to help research and engage with a variety of organizations to gather useful data and implement age-friendly initiatives.

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?

Bar Harbor is a very unique Maine community in terms of the year round local population of 5,269 versus the the influx of well over 3 million visitors to Acadia National Park in the summer months. We also have a fast growing senior population over the age of 75. The successes we may have could be useful to other communities with like population swells due to Maine tourism.

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?

The motivation has been driven by seniors and the support from the Town of Bar Harbor to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities.



Click here to enter text.

6) Please provide a digital (JPG, PNG or PDF) file of your community. Membership Application: AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities – Page 3

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