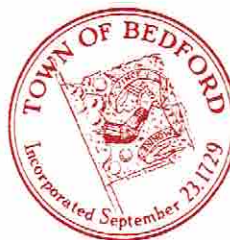


TOWN OF BEDFORD
BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS 01730



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SELECTMEN of BEDFORD

Margot R. Fleischman, Chair
Caroline Fedele William S. Moonan
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10 Mudge Way
Bedford, MA 01730
781-275-1111

February 12, 2018

Mr. Michael Festa
Massachusetts State Director
One Beacon Street, Suite 2301
Boston, MA 02108

Re: Membership in the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities

Dear Mr. Festa:

On behalf of the Town of Bedford, I am pleased to offer this letter for our ongoing commitment to creating an Age-Friendly Community and Region, and I respectfully request membership to the AARP/WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. Bedford is submitting this letter and its application as a part of a 14-town collaborative effortⁱ of the Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordinationⁱⁱ (MAGIC) to advance regional age-friendly planning.

Older adults are increasingly a larger part of our community, a trend we are also seeing in our neighboring towns. Regionally, currently 9-20% of residents are 65 years and older, in 2030 this range will jump to 14-36%.ⁱⁱⁱ The unique needs of a growing older adult population will influence housing, transportation, and health care, among other services and systems. These facts compel us to be proactive, to ensure that current efforts and planning address these issues, and that both now and in the future older residents are supported in leading stable, engaged, and healthy lives.

Through the 14-town collaborative effort, Bedford will seek to advance age-friendly regional planning and solutions for two particularly pressing issues: housing and transportation. Where the region has limited public transit and is largely car-dependent, solutions must address needs for older adult mobility, particularly for those that do not drive cars, and including active transportation solutions that support active and healthy lifestyles. In the region, the housing stock available may not meet the needs of adults as they age and as their households get smaller. Solutions, therefore must be responsive to older adults across their lifetime, and must also include adequate affordable options to ensure that residents may continue to age in their communities. Where these are issues that towns work actively on, by working across towns, we will have the opportunity to build on our successes and identify and implement regional housing and transportation solutions for older adults both in the near term and into the future.

Thank you for your consideration of our membership to the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. We look forward to our partnership in building age-friendly communities.

Sincerely,

Margot R. Fleischman, Chair
The Bedford Selectmen

ⁱ The regional age-friendly effort is a collaboration between Acton, Bedford, Bolton, Boxborough, Carlisle, Concord, Hudson, Lexington, Lincoln, Littleton, Maynard, Stow, Sudbury and Westford.

ⁱⁱ MAGIC is a subregion of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, and is the convener of the regional Age-Friendly initiatives. More information: www.mapc.org/magic

ⁱⁱⁱ Census 2010 and MAPC MetroFuture Projections for participating towns