



## 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](mailto:livable@aarpp.org).
- If you need additional space for answering the questions you may add an additional sheet of paper.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 7/30/2018

### Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

**NAME OF THE COMMUNITY:** Bath. We are open to creating a broader regional initiative covering Bath, West Bath, Woolwich, Arrowsic and Phippsburg if those communities wish to do that.

**STATE:** Maine

**POPULATION SIZE:** Bath: 8334 in 2016. In all of the communities listed above, the total population was 15,986 in 2016. Bath is the major service center for the area and has about half of its population.

**PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60:** 17.1% of the population in Bath was over 60 in 2016. In the region, the percentage over 60 is 20% for these 5 towns ranging from 34.5% in Arrowsic to 17% in Bath and Woolwich.

**NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT:** Bath's entire City Council signed a letter of support and voted in a resolution of support for this Age Friendly Community network application. City Councilor Ward 1, Phyllis Bailey, brought this issue to the council, is actively involved in the local initiative, is a member of the city's Community Development Committee and is submitting this application with the grassroots local initiative leadership.

**OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER:** Phyllis Bailey, City Council Ward 1, City Hall, 55 Front Street, Bath, Maine 04530. Phone 207-443-1573. Home address: 16 Riverview Road, Bath, Maine 04530. Email: [pbailey@cityofbath.com](mailto:pbailey@cityofbath.com). Personal email: [phylbailey1@msn.com](mailto:phylbailey1@msn.com)

### 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:

Ruth has been the leader and convener of the Age Friendly/Livable Communities work in the greater Bath area and has generated interest across multiple communities. She is a past member of Bath City Council and is well-known for her work in local and regional public health initiatives, for the Patten Free Library and on environmental issues. She engaged the local population in 3 region-wide events: 1) An overview of Maine’s Aging Demographics and the AARP Age Friendly Community Initiative. 2) a lively panel discussion by representatives of several communities already engaged in the Age Friendly network & work locally. 3) An early summer session on Getting Out and Getting Moving with a panel that included the local land trust and a doctor from our health system. She has facilitated the development of a structure to move forward, including a steering committee, and sub committees on assessments, events, and topics like housing and transportation.

### 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.

This grassroots group is at the beginning of its assessment process and so we have not formulated plans yet. Yet the community of Bath has some very successful ongoing initiatives that are targeted to older adults such as the “Comfortably Home” program of Bath Housing, based on the CAPABLE model out of Johns Hopkins which helps older adults assess and complete needed retrofits so they can age safely in their home. Bath also has a “tax club” program which allows home-owners to split their tax bill into more manageable monthly payments. A City bus is available traveling between the business districts, many neighborhoods and some medical facilities. “Livability” has been on the minds of many for some time, and so Bath has a good base upon which to build. Bath is planning an update to its Comprehensive Plan and we will share what we learn as the comprehensive plan update moves forward, The AARP Age Friendly technical assistance in the form of the very valuable guidance from Patricia Oh and the Livability guides will be a tremendous help for our grass-roots group as we collect data through our expected fall assessment, and then set priorities for what may be the most effective steps to take forward.

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

Older residents have been involved in the informational meetings and committees from the beginning, both as participants and speakers. Outreach has been made to elected officials, leaders of community organizations of all types (especially those working with older adults), churches in town and across the region, members of city departments like police, fire, planning, etc; and we expect to continue this. Our local newspapers have been supportive in printing notices of events and articles about the start-up of the age friendly work. We know that we need both older adult residents and community leaders to join in this process. We are hopeful that continuing to offer events in central locations like the Library and Bath area Senior Center will help us pull participants in. Because we do not have broad e-mail address lists, we will likely do a fair amount of information dissemination through our city website, our daily and weekly local papers, churches, and community gathering spots to invite engagement both in the assessment process and conversations about how our city and region could be more age friendly. For example, we may disseminate our assessment questionnaire with city tax bills. We are very thankful for the access to the best practices offered by AARP staff about what they have learned can work in other communities.

#### 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 are planning an assessment questionnaire for the fall and will begin priority development based on that. Our assessment process may also include community conversations and other steps to broaden participation and sharpen our understanding.. We are also going to be reviewing the assessments and findings of other organizations including the United Way, Main Street Bath and City committees such as the South End Traffic Study as they become available. Some members of city departments have joined events and committee meetings and we continue to invite and welcome that. We now have a relationship with the Community Development Committee of the City and will be consulting with them from time to time to get their input.

#### 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?

Here we believe very deeply in “Livability across the Lifespan” – that what is good for older adults is also good for young families and actually the whole community. It is about our quality of life whatever our ages. We also believe deeply in collaboration and finding our path through conversation and consensus. As we look for ways to communicate the opportunities that come with our growing aging population (rather than the burden mentality), we will share what we learn and are able to do. We are excited to support the exchange of ideas and events that will come through the Age Friendly Community Network, both here in Maine and nationally.

#### 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 were motivated to join due to: 1) the demographics and aging of our region. 2) Our desire not to re-create the wheel. 3) The resources and technical assistance available to members to help us move forward.



*Our initiative does not have a logo yet, but are considering the group name of “Bath Area Livable for a Lifetime” Initiative. The City of Bath logo is coming from our city clerk. Or, send us your logo by email attachment to [livable@aarp.org](mailto:livable@aarp.org).*

#### 6) Please provide a digital (JPG, PNG or PDF) file of your community.

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