



February 8, 2023

Dear AARP Age-Friendly Administration,

On behalf of the City of Amesbury, I am pleased to submit our application for the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities Program to become an Age-Friendly Community. Amesbury is committed to promoting programs and policies to make our community friendly to aging populations.

Amesbury has a population of about 17,300 year-round residents. Over the past ten years, our City has experienced a 47% increase in residents aged 65 and older. We are also experiencing a higher-than-average disability rate at 19.3% of the population – the highest of any community in the Merrimack Valley. According to projections, these numbers are going to increase: estimates are that 30% of our population will be aged 65 or older in the year 2030.

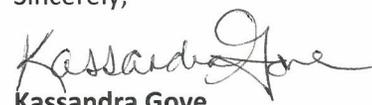
To address our aging population needs we created the Age-Friendly Amesbury Task Force in 2021. The Task Force was created through a joint effort between the Council on Aging and the Office of Community and Economic Development and includes stakeholders from the Friends of Council on Aging, a local bank, senior housing advocates, a local transit agency, the Chamber of Commerce, and Veterans Affairs. To-date, the Task Force has developed a resource brochure, improved transit access, and conducted a walkability audit of public spaces. The Age-Friendly Amesbury Task Force is also involved in the City's new Master Plan – I AMesbury 2030 to incorporate age-friendly strategies into the plan.

As a participant in the national network of communities, Amesbury is committed to:

- Actively engaging older adults in our assessment and planning process;
- Conducting a thorough baseline assessment of our City's current standing of the age-friendly criteria set by the World Health Organization; and
- Establishing an action plan that responds to the needs identified by older adults; and
- Measuring activities, reviewing our action plan outcomes, and reporting progress annually.

We look forward to working with AARP Massachusetts staff and volunteers to ensure our community has the appropriate infrastructure and resources in place as we move forward in creating a more Age-Friendly Amesbury.

Sincerely,


Cassandra Gove
Mayor

Mayor Cassandra Gove
City Hall • 62 Friend Street • Amesbury, MA 01913
(978) 388-8121 • govek@amesburyma.gov

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