

Boston Post Cane Guidelines for Whitefield Maine

History

The Boston Post Cane tradition was established in 1909 by the *Boston Post* newspaper. A special cane was presented to the Board of Selectmen in 431 towns in New England, to be presented as an honor to each town's oldest resident. Originally presented to men only, eligibility was opened to women in 1930. The recipient held the honor as long as he/she lived (or moved from the town). In that event the Cane would be awarded to the next oldest resident.

The Cane belongs to the Town of Whitefield, but due to its fragility it was placed in the custody of the Whitefield Historical Society several years ago.

These guidelines are to assist in determining the next recipient of the Cane. It is intended that the procedure be guided by common sense.

Eligibility and Selection

The holder of the Cane must be 90 years old or older, must be a resident of the Town of Whitefield, and must have lived in the town for a minimum of 20 years. The term "resident" refers to a person who has physically resided at a fixed, permanent and principal home in the town.

Recognizing that individuals sometimes establish residency here late in life but otherwise may not be engaged as residents of the Town of Whitefield, selection of the honoree shall be by a committee of three. This committee will consist of a Town selectman, a member of the Whitefield Historical Society, and a Whitefield member of a local civic organization such as the Arlington Grange or Lions Club.

Notices shall be placed in the media for nominations of residents who are eligible. The search may include inquiries to local civic groups, churches, health centers, nursing homes, as well as general local knowledge.

Presentation

The location of the presentation will be determined according to the circumstances of the honoree. While the Boston Post Cane can be ceremonially presented to the oldest citizen, it is kept at the Society. A certificate and/or lapel pin will be given to the holder of the Cane.

The recipient will retain this honor as long as he or she remains in Whitefield or in a nearby nursing home or residence. The Town must be notified if the recipient dies, refuses or returns the honor. At that time the Committee shall determine the new oldest citizen.

Signed: [Signature] Selectman Date 5/8/12

Signed: [Signature] WHS Pres. Date 5/2/12