

TOWN OF NORRIDGEWOCK BOSTON POST CANE POLICY

I. BACKGROUND & 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 700 towns throughout New England, to be presented as an honor to each town's oldest citizen. The recipient held the honor as long as s/he lived and upon his or her death, the cane would be awarded to the next oldest citizen.

The Cane belonged to the town and not the citizen who received it, in order to provide for the preservation and public awareness of the tradition and to protect the cane from loss or damage. The Cane is the property of the Town of Norridgewock. The original cane is retained at the Norridgewock Town Office in a display case donated by Richard and Jeanette Hilton.

II. SEARCH POLICIES

- A. The Town of Norridgewock shall announce an open nomination period for the oldest known, eligible citizen. Such announcement shall be posted at the Norridgewock Town Office and be publicized in media normally seen by the public, including local newspaper(s), Town of Norridgewock website, and social media. Advertisements for nominees shall not incur expense to the Town.
- B. The search may also include an informal survey, general public knowledge, and inquiries to nursing homes, civic groups, and/or churches.

III. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- A. The holder of the Cane must be the oldest known Town of Norridgewock citizen.
- B. Candidates must have been a resident of the Town of Norridgewock for a minimum of 25 of the previous 40 years. Candidates currently living outside of the Town of Norridgewock with family or in an assisted living/nursing facility must meet the 25/40 year eligibility criteria.
- C. The Board of Selectmen may judge that a person's contributions to the community have been so extraordinary that the 25/40 criteria be waived.

IV. SELECTION

- A. Recognizing that the Town has no formal means of identifying the eldest citizen, selection of the honoree shall be by the Board of Selectmen, based upon nominations and available data as to eligible citizens.
- B. The Town of Norridgewock recognizes that the eldest citizen may not wish to receive the title and therefore asserts that in such cases, the Cane will not be awarded until another resident becomes eligible under the foregoing criteria.

V. PRESENTATION/AWARD

- A. The Board of Selectmen or its designee shall present Norridgewock's oldest citizen with a certificate to recognize the honor and shall cause the name of the honoree to be inscribed on a plaque displayed along with the Boston Post Cane at the Norridgewock Town Office.
- B. The location of the presentation will be determined according to the circumstances of the honoree.
- C. The recipient will retain this honor as long as s/he lives.
- D. The Town Clerk's Office must be notified if the recipient of the Boston Post Cane dies or otherwise refuses or returns the honor. No sooner than 30 days after the honoree's death, the Town Clerk will initiate the search/nomination/selection process in order to identify the next recipient.

VI. EFFECTIVE

This policy is effective as of November 15, 2017, as authorized by the Norridgewock Board of Selectmen.