

BOSTON POST CANE GUIDELINES Raymond, Maine

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. The recipient held the honor as long as he/she lived. Upon his or her death the cane would be awarded to the next oldest resident.

The cane would belong to the town and not the resident who received it in order to provide for the preservation and public awareness of the tradition and protection of the cane from loss or damage.

Eligibility and Selection:

The holder of the Cane must be the oldest known resident and must reside in the Town of Raymond for a minimum of 5 years.

The term 'resident' refers to a person who intends to physically reside at a fixed, permanent and principal home in the town.

The applicant for the Boston Post Cane must be a Raymond resident though they may be living outside of Raymond with family or in an assisted living/nursing facility. It is understood that the person would be living in Raymond if it were possible.

Recognizing that the Town has no formal means of identifying residents by age, selection of the honoree shall be by the Board of Selectmen and the Town Clerk.

Method to Search for Oldest Resident:

There shall be a notice posted and publicized in other ways which are normally seen by the residents. Nominations for those residents who can prove their age and has been a resident of Raymond for a minimum of 5 years. All nominations must be received in the Town Clerk's Office 60 days from the date of the posting of the notice. The search may also include an informal survey, general public knowledge, and inquiries to nursing homes, civic groups, and churches or by nomination from family or friends. A nomination form may be obtained from the Town Clerk's Office or on-line at www.raymondmaine.org

Presentation:

The Chairman of the Raymond Board of Selectmen or his/her designee shall present Raymond's oldest resident with a certificate signifying the honor and shall cause the name of the honoree to be inscribed on a plaque displayed along with the original Boston Post Cane at the Raymond Town Hall, as well as a picture of the recipient and a brief biography.

The location of the presentation will be determined according to the circumstances of the honoree.

The recipient will retain this honor as long as he/she lives even though another resident may become eligible. The Town Clerk's Office must be notified if the recipient of the Boston Post Cane dies or otherwise refuses or returns the honor. At that time the Town Clerk shall determine the new oldest resident of Raymond and present the name to the Board of Selectmen.