

Towns of Mapleton, Castle Hill & Chapman Boston Post Cane Presentation Policy

BACKGROUND & HISTORY

The Boston Post Cane tradition was established in 1909 by Edwin A. Grozier, publisher of the Boston Post newspaper. A special cane was presented to the Board of Selectmen in 700 New England towns to be presented to the towns' oldest living citizen, and at his death, transmitted to the next oldest living citizen. The cane would belong to the town and not the person who received it.

For years, the Mapleton, Castle Hill & Chapman Select Boards have followed this tradition. The canes are mounted in a display case at the town office with a plaque listing the names of honorees since 1980.

SECTION I: PURPOSE

This policy known as the Boston Post Cane Presentation Policy of the Towns of Mapleton, Castle Hill and Chapman is adopted for the purpose of setting guidelines for the Board of Selectmen, as Trustees of the Boston Post Cane in a manner that follows the wishes of the donor. It is also adopted to provide for the preservation and public awareness of the tradition, to protect the canes from loss of damage and to establish protocol and definition for recognizing the town's oldest citizens.

SECTION II: AUTHORITY

This policy is adopted by the Board of Selectmen in accordance with the authority granted to the Board by the donor of the cane.

SECTION III. CANE OWNERSHIP:

The Mapleton, Castle Hill and Chapman Boston Post Canes are the property of each respective Town. The original Cane is to be retained at the Town Office and the recipient receives a unique plaque in lieu of the Cane.

SECTION IV: TRUSTEES OF THE BOSTON POST CANE

The Board of Selectmen for the Towns of Mapleton, Castle Hill and Chapman will serve as the Trustees of their respective Boston Post Cane.

SECTION V. SELECTION & DISTRIBUTION OF THE CANE

The Boston Post Cane shall be presented to the oldest resident of the Towns of Mapleton, Castle Hill and Chapman, respectively, with the following qualifications and stipulations:

1. No Person who has resided in any of the Towns for fewer than 20 years shall be eligible to receive the cane, UNLESS the Trustees of the Boston Post Cane judge that the person's contributions to the community have been so extraordinary as to exempt him/her.
2. Persons meeting the above criteria who no longer live in the Towns by virtue of the fact that they are for medical reasons required to live in an assisted living facility are eligible for the award.
3. If the oldest living qualified resident does not accept the cane, the Trustees of the cane shall offer the cane to the next qualified resident.
4. Upon the passing of the holder of the Boston Post Cane, the Trustees will wait a period of thirty (30) days before presenting the cane to the next resident qualified to hold the cane.

5. If the holder of the cane changes residence outside of Aroostook County for more than one year, a new recipient will be selected.
6. Town staff shall maintain a list of oldest living residents for each town using voter registration and motor vehicle records. If necessary, notice shall be posted and publicized to seek residents eligible to receive the cane. Staff will identify the eligible recipient and submit their name to the Select Board for approval.

SECTION VI. PRESENTATION OF THE CANE

The Chair of the Town's Select Board or their designee shall present the cane to the oldest resident for the duration of the presentation ceremony. The canes belong to the towns, so a plaque signifying the honor will be presented to the recipient for their possession in lieu of the cane. The name of the honoree shall be inscribed on the plaque displayed with the towns' canes.

The recipient shall retain the honor as long as he/she lives, regardless of their residency following designation. The Town Clerk must be notified if the recipient dies or otherwise refuses or returns the honor. At this time the search/nomination/selection procedure will be initiated to choose a new recipient.

Adopted by the Castle Hill Select Board on December 6, 2017

Adopted by the Chapman Select Board on January 10, 2018

Adopted by the Mapleton Select Board on December 6, 2017

David R. Dionne

David R. Dionne, Town Manager