

Boston Post Cane Holder – Derry, New Hampshire

The Boston Post Cane tradition was established in 1909 by the *Boston Post* newspaper. A special cane was given to the town officials in hundreds of New England towns, to be presented as an honor to each town's oldest citizen. (Originally for males only, but later extended to women.) The recipient held the honor as long as he or she lived (or moved from the town). Upon his or her death (or move) the cane would be awarded to the next oldest person.

While the original cane has been lost, a replica is housed in the Derry Town Municipal Center and a duplicate cane is now presented to the oldest citizen for them to keep. The Derry Heritage Commission has established guidelines and definitions to assist in determining the recipient of the cane. It is intended that the procedure remain flexible and be guided by common sense.

Eligibility and Selection

The holder of the cane must be 90 years old or older and must reside in the Town of Derry for at least five (5) years. The term "resident" refers to a person who has physically resided at a fixed, permanent, and principal home in this town. Maintaining an address, voting eligibility, and/or car registration are also indications of residency.

Recognizing that individuals sometimes establish residency here late in life but otherwise may not be engaged as residents of the Town of Derry, selection of the honoree shall be by a committee of three. This committee will consist of the Town Council liaison and two representatives of the Derry Heritage Commission.

Method of Search for the Oldest Citizen

There shall be a notice placed in the local media looking for nominations for those residents who are 90 years old or older and have been resident in Derry for at least five (5) years. Nominations must be received by the Heritage Commission thirty (30) days from the date of posting of the notice in the media. The search will also include an informal survey, general public knowledge, voter registrations, and inquiries to nursing homes, senior citizen housing, civic groups, and churches or by nomination from family and friends. A nomination form may be obtained from the Heritage Commission by contacting the Chairperson at derrymuseum@gmail.com

Presentation

The Town Council Chairperson or his or her designee shall present the oldest resident with the cane, and cause the name of the honoree to be inscribed on a plaque to be eventually displayed along with the Boston Post Cane at the Town Municipal Center. A photo of the recipient will also be displayed.

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 or she remains in Derry or in a nearby nursing home or residence. The Heritage Commission must be notified if the recipient dies, changes residency outside of the Town, or otherwise refuses or returns the honor. At that time the Heritage Commission shall begin the search for the new oldest citizen.

**BOSTON POST CANE NOMINATION FORM
DERRY, NH 03038**

Name of Nominee:

Nominee's Address:

Nominee's Telephone Number: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Year Became a Resident: _____

Please attach supporting documentation when submitting this form (copy of birth certificate and proof of residency)

Name of Person or Organization Making this Nomination:

Address:

Telephone: _____ e-mail: _____

Send or email completed for to:

**Derry Heritage Commission
Town of Derry
4 Manning Street
Derry, NH 03038**

derrymuseum@gmail.com