

TOWN OF NEW BOSTON

BOSTON POST CANE POLICY AND PROCEDURES

HISTORY (from bostonpostcane.org)

On August 2, 1909, Mr. Edwin A. Grozier, Publisher of the Boston Post, a newspaper, forwarded to the Board of Selectmen in 700 towns (no cities included) in New England a gold-headed ebony cane with the request that it be presented with the compliments of the Boston Post to the oldest citizen of the town, to be used by the citizen as long they live (or move from the town), and upon their death be handed down to the next oldest citizen of the town. The cane would belong to the town and not the recipient.

SUMMARY

In New Boston, the select board now give the oldest citizen a replica of the 1909 cane to keep, and the original is on permanent display in the New Boston Historical Society Museum.

PROCEDURES (transitioning the cane)

1. Using town records the town administrator should determine the oldest resident in New Boston. Resources such as the New Boston Historical Society, The Joe English Grange #53 and religious institutions in town should be considered if town records are insufficient to determine the oldest resident.
2. Once the oldest resident is determined the town administrator should contact the individual and confirm the individual is interested in receiving the cane.
3. In the event that the resident is not interested in receiving the cane, the town administrator should contact the next resident in line.
4. The members of the select board shall have final say in determining the next recipient of the cane. Along with age, the board can consider length of residency, community service, military service and other similar factors when settling on the citizen to present the cane to.

Select Board Approved February 13, 2023