



Town of Groton

Board of Selectmen

Boston Post Cane Policy

(as revised August 10, 2009)

I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy shall be used to award the Boston Post Cane in the Town of Groton.

II. HISTORY

The Boston Post Cane was issued to the Town of Groton by the Boston Post newspaper in 1909, along with 430 other towns (not cities) in New England, to be awarded to the Town's oldest resident.

The Town wishes to continue the tradition of awarding the cane as a means of honoring its most senior citizens.

III. POLICY

The Boston Post Cane (the cane) shall be awarded by the Board of Selectmen to the oldest person living in the Town of Groton that meets the criteria set forth in this policy. The award shall be of a replica cane, or other symbol designated by the Board. The original cane shall be securely displayed for public viewing in Town Hall, along with the name of the current recipient.

The Board may elect to award certificates honoring other residents of Groton who have reached 90 years of age, regardless of eligibility for the cane.

The original Boston Post Cane shall remain the property of the Town.

IV. ELIGIBILITY

The oldest person living in the Town of Groton, as determined by the town census and voter registration records of the Town. There is no minimum age requirement. The other criteria set forth in this policy must be met.

A cane recipient will retain this honor as long as he/she remains a resident of Groton, even though another resident may become eligible.

V. RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT

There is a minimum residency requirement of the previous 15 years in Groton.

The oldest person must consider Groton to be, and to have been, their primary residence for the previous 15 years. Temporary out-of-town residency for a period of up to six months per year is allowed. Those persons fortunate enough to be out of the town for extended travel opportunities beyond a 6 month period shall not lose eligibility as long as Groton is considered to be their principal residency.

VI. LOSS OR TRANSFER OF ELIGIBILITY

The Town Clerk must be notified of a change in the eligibility or death of a cane recipient. Should a cane-recipient become ineligible, another oldest person shall be awarded the cane and recognition as Groton's oldest citizen.

Should a person refuse the cane, it shall be awarded to the next oldest person.

All cane holders shall remain identified as having held the cane. Replicas, or other symbols, awarded to recipients shall remain the property of the recipient.