Suggested guidelines Boston Post cane Town of New Durham, NH 2025

History:

The Boston Post Cane tradition was established in 1909 by the "Boston Post Newspaper." The Boston Post desired to have presented, with its compliments, to the Oldest citizen of our Town." They asked "that the Board of Selectmen make the selection and presentation" of the gold-headed ebony cane.

They asked, "The Board to act as trustee of the cane, and see that the stick is duly presented and duly transmitted when such a change of holders becomes necessary." The cane shall be "carried" by the Oldest Citizen of our community, and that upon their decease of the present Oldest Citizen, it shall be duly transmitted to the then Oldest Citizen.

In 1930, the women's rights movement caught up with the presentation of the cane. In response to women's complaints that it was not fair to limit Honor to men only, it was then opened to the oldest male or female resident.

The Town of New Durham has taken measures to prevent the loss of its original cane. New Durham is among many New Hampshire towns that keep the cane locked away and present it to the Oldest Resident, an honorary gesture only.

To provide for the preservation and public awareness of the tradition and protection of the cane from loss or damage, the Town of New Durham establishes a protocol and definition of New Durham's oldest resident. The original cane is held in the Town's Historical Collection Vault for safekeeping.

Eligibility and Selection:

The honorary holder of the cane must be the oldest resident in the Town of New Durham for a minimum of the last 10 years.

The term "resident" refers to a person who makes a place in New Durham their domicile/residence. Such actions include, but are not limited to, purchasing or leasing a principal (i.e. primary) house or apartment, obtaining a resident vehicle registration, placing dependent children in a publicly funded school, registering to vote, or paying taxes.

Method to Search for Oldest Resident:

There shall be placed in the media (local newspaper, Town's website, and any other lawful means available to the Town of New Durham, looking for nominations for those residents who meet eligibility requirements. All nominations must be received in the Town Clerk's office 30 days from the date of the posting of the notice in the media. The search may also include an informal survey, general public knowledge, tax rolls, civic groups and churches, or nominations from family and friends. Nominations may be made by completing the nomination form and sending it to the Town Clerk, emailing ndtownclerknh.org, or mailing it to New Durham Town Clerk, Boston Post cane Nomination, PO Box 207, New Durham, NH 03855.

Presentation:

The Board of Selectmen or their designee shall present to New Durham's oldest resident the Boston Post cane and the resolution to the honoree. An engraved commemorative plaque shall be presented to the oldest resident. The location of the presentation will be determined by the honoree's circumstances.

Suggested guidelines Boston Post cane Town of New Durham, NH 2025

Once the official presentation is concluded, the original cane shall be returned to the Town's vault for safekeeping.

The recipient will retain the honor as long as they meet the eligibility terms. The Town Clerk's office must be notified if the recipient dies, changes residency outside the Town of New Durham, or otherwise refuses or returns the honor. At that time, the Town Clerk shall determine the new oldest resident of New Durham and inform the Select Board.

NOMINATION FORM FOR BOSTON POST CANE

Your Name:

Your Phone Number:

Your Email Address:

Name of Nominee:

Age of Nominee:

Date of Birth of Nominee (if known) Month- ____ day- ____ Year - _____

Phone Number of Nominee:

Email Address of Nominee: (if known)

Place of Residence:

Brief Biography of Nominee:

Criteria for the Definition of Residency:

You make a town or ward in New Hampshire your principal place of physical presence to the exclusion of all other places. Your actions in New Hampshire reveal your intent to make a place in New Hampshire your domicile/residence. Such actions include, but are not limited to, purchasing or leasing a principal (i.e. primary) house or apartment, obtaining a resident vehicle registration, placing dependent children in a publicly funded school, registering to vote, paying taxes applicable only to residents, etc. RSA 21:6; RSA 21:6-a; RSA 259:23; RSA 654:1.

Adopted by the Board of Selectmen: December 18 2025

~~David "Swens" Swenson~~, Chair _____

Dorothy Veisel, Vice-Chair _____

Rudy Rosiello, Member _____

NEW DURHAM BOSTON POST CANE

NOMINATION FORM

Please Provide All Information.

TODAY'S DATE: _____

YOUR NAME: _____

YOUR PHONE NUMBER: _____

YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

NAME OF NOMINEE: _____

AGE OF NOMINEE: _____

DATE OF BIRTH OF NOMINNE (IF KNOWN): MONTH _____DAY- _____YEAR-_____

PHONE NUMBER OF NOMINEE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS OF NOMINEE: _____

PLACE OF RESIDENCE: _____

NOMINEE HAS BEEN A RESIDENT OF NEW DURHAM MINIMUM OF 10 YEARS: YES OR NO

(PLEASE CIRCLE ONE)

PLEASE SHARE A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF NOMINEE: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Please leave the completed form in a sealed envelope marked "Nomination for Boston Post Cane Candidate" with the New Durham Town Clerk, or mail it to the New Durham Town Clerk, "Nomination for Boston Post Cane Candidate", PO Box 207, New Durham, NH 03855.

Please see the Guidelines for "Eligibility and Selection" for the term resident.