

HAMPSTEAD'S BOSTON POST CANE

The Hampstead Board of Selectmen and the Historic District Commission are looking for the oldest citizen of Hampstead to reinstate the tradition of awarding the Boston Post Cane.

In 1909, the publisher of the Boston Post, Edward M. Grosier, forwarded to 431 towns in New England (no cities) what is known as the Boston Post Cane. The canes were made by J.F. Fradley and Co., a NY manufacturer, from ebony shipped from Africa. The head of the cane is of 14-carat gold, with the words, "Presented by the Boston Post to the oldest citizen of Hampstead – to be transmitted."



Hampstead was one of the towns to receive the cane, and the original cane was returned to Hampstead in 1974. The Board of Selectmen retired the cane at that time because it was difficult to determine the oldest citizen, since there was a Nursing Home in town at that time. The original cane is now in a safe place in the town's Historic Museum in the Historic Library Building on Main Street.

A replica of the cane has been obtained by the town, and will be awarded to the oldest citizen by the Board of Selectmen, when this person is found.

Criteria for Receiving the Cane

1. The person agrees to be nominated.
2. The person is nominated by family, friends, or by him/herself.
3. The nominee has claimed Hampstead as his/her permanent residence for 15 consecutive years prior to the date of nomination.
4. The Hampstead Board of Selectmen and Members of the Historic District Commission will take nominations for the cane recipient.
5. The cane shall not leave Hampstead. If the recipient moves outside the town, it is understood by the recipient that the cane will be stored either at the Hampstead Town Office, or at the Hampstead Historic Museum. The cane will not be awarded to any other person while the recipient is still living.
6. Temporary custody of the cane will remain the possession of the cane holder until his/her passing, at which time a responsible person will return the cane to the Hampstead Board of Selectmen.
7. Members of the Historic District Commission shall review applications for the Boston Post Cane, and then recommend the new holder to the Hampstead Board of Selectmen, who will make the final selection.

Submission forms may be obtained from the Hampstead Selectmen's Office.