



TOWN OF HARRISON

20 Front Street, PO Box 300, Harrison ME 04040

THE BOSTON POST CANE GUIDELINES

Harrison, Maine

The Boston Post Cane tradition was established in 1909 by the *Boston Post Newspaper*. A special cane was presented to the Board of Selectmen in over 400 towns in New England, to be presented as an honor to each town's oldest resident. The recipient held the honor as long as he/she lived (or moved from the town). Upon his or her passing (or moving to another town) the cane would be awarded to the next oldest resident.

The cane would belong to the town and not the resident who received it.

To provide for preservation and public awareness of the tradition and protection of the cane from loss or damage, the Town of Harrison will establish a protocol and definition for Harrison's oldest resident.

Eligibility and Selection:

The holder of the cane must be 90 years old or older and must reside in the Town of Harrison for a minimum of the last 20 years. The oldest nominee will be chosen.

The term "resident" refers to a person who has physically resided at a fixed, permanent, and principal home in the town.

The applicant for the Boston Post Cane must be a Harrison resident though they may be living outside of Harrison with family or in an assisted living/nursing facility. It is understood that the person would be living in Harrison if it were possible.

Recognizing that the Town has no formal means of identifying residents by age, selection of the honoree shall be by the Town Clerk and the Board of Selectmen.

Method of Search for the Oldest Resident:

There shall be a notice placed in the media and on the town's website looking for nominations for those residents who are 90 years old or older and have been a resident of Harrison for a minimum of the last 20 years. Nominations must be received in the

Town Clerk's office 30 days from the date of the posting of the notice. The search may also include an informal survey, general public knowledge, inquiries to nursing homes, civic groups, and churches or by nomination from family or friends. A nomination form may be obtained from the Town Clerk's Office or on-line at www.harrisonmaine.org.

Presentation:

The Chairman of the Harrison Board of Selectmen or his/her designee shall present Harrison's oldest resident with a certificate signifying the honor and shall cause the name of the honoree to be inscribed on a plaque displayed along with the original Boston Post Cane at the Harrison Town Office. A picture of the recipient and a brief biography will be published in the local newspaper upon permission from the nominee.

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/she lives, even though another resident may become eligible. The Town Clerk's office must be notified if the recipient of the Boston Post Cane passes away or otherwise refuses or returns the honor. At that time the Town Clerk shall determine the new oldest resident of Harrison and present the name to the Board of Selectmen.