BOSTON POST CANE POLICY

FOR THE

TOWN OF CHINA, MAINE

Given under our hands this 4th day of February, 2019 as the Board of Selectmen.

Robert A. MacFarland, Chairman

Irene L. Belanger, Secretary

Donna M. Mills-Stevens

Jeffrey R. LaVerdiere

Ronald R. Breton

February 4, 2019

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BACKGROUND & HISTORY

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 700 towns in New England, to be presented as an honor to each town's oldest citizen. The recipient held the honor as long as s/he lived and upon his or her death, the cane would be awarded to the next oldest citizen.

The cane belonged to the town and not the citizen who received it in order to provide for the preservation and public awareness of the tradition and to protect the cane from loss or damage.

SEARCH METHODS

A. The Town of China shall announce an open nomination period for the oldest known, eligible citizen. Such announcement shall be posted at China Town Office and be publicized in media normally seen by the public, including local newspaper(s), Town of China website, and social media.

B. The search may also include an informal survey, general public knowledge, and inquiries to nursing homes, civic groups, and/or churches.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

A. The holder of the Cane must be the oldest known Town of China citizen.

B. Candidates must have been a resident of the Town of China for a minimum of 25 of the previous 40 years. Candidates currently living outside of the Town of China with family or in an assisted living/nursing facility must meet the 25/40 year eligibility criteria.

C. The term 'resident' refers to a person who has physically resided at a fixed, permanent and principal home in the Town of China.

NOMINATION PROCEDURE

A. Boston Post Cane Nomination Forms are available at China Town Office, 571 Lakeview Drive, China and on the Town of China website at www.china.govoffice.com. Citizens who can prove their age and who meet the eligibility criteria may be nominated.

B. Nominations must be received in the Town Clerk's Office no later than 30 days from the date the open nomination period is announced.

SELECTION

A. Recognizing that the Town has no formal means of identifying the oldest citizen, selection of the honoree shall be by the Select Board based upon submitted nominations and available data as to eligible citizens.

B. The Town of China recognizes that the eldest citizen may not wish to receive the title and therefore asserts that in such cases the recognition will be made to the next eldest citizen that wishes to hold the title.

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PRESENTATION

A. The Select Board Chair or his/her designee shall present China's oldest citizen with a certificate to signify the honor and shall cause the name of the honoree to be inscribed on a plaque displayed along with the Boston Post Cane at the China Town Office.

B. The location of the presentation will be determined according to the circumstances of the honoree.

C. The recipient will retain this honor as long as s/he lives.

D. The Town Clerk's Office must be notified if the recipient of the Boston Post Cane dies or otherwise refuses or returns the honor. At that time the search/nomination/selection procedure will be initiated to choose a new recipient.

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