



## **THE BOSTON POST CANE**

The Boston Post Cane tradition was established in 1909 by the former Boston Post newspaper. A special cane was presented to the Selectmen in more than 600 New England towns to be presented to the towns' oldest citizen, and at his or her death to be transmitted to the next oldest living citizen.

For years the Town Council of Falmouth has followed this tradition. The Boston Post Cane in Falmouth has been presented to 21 of Falmouth's oldest citizens since 1909 and is mounted on a display plaque at the Town Hall with the intention of researching and posting the names and dates of past honorees (if known). It was decided, in the Year 2000, to recognize the oldest male and female citizens of Falmouth. The following policy is adopted to advance several goals:

- Provide for preservation and public awareness of the tradition, and protection of the cane itself from loss or damage.
- Establish a protocol and definition for Falmouth's oldest citizen recognizing that numerous individuals establish residency in Falmouth's nursing homes very late in life, but otherwise may not be engaged as citizens of the Town of Falmouth, and recognizing that the Town Council and Town Clerk have no formal means of identifying residents by age.

### **Presentation of the Cane:**

Whenever the last recipient of the Boston Post Cane shall die, change residency outside of the Falmouth vicinity or otherwise refuse or return the honor, the Town Council shall endeavor to determine the new oldest citizen of Falmouth. This endeavor may be undertaken by informal survey of senior citizen groups, newspaper advertisement, general public knowledge, inquiry to Falmouth's churches, nursing homes, and civic groups, or by nomination from family or friends of elderly citizens. The Town Council shall determine the oldest resident and provide for public acknowledgement of such resident.

The subsequent discovery of an older resident or the relocation of another older person to the community shall not affect the validity of the honor or designation.

The Chair of the Falmouth Town Council or his or her designee shall present Falmouth's oldest citizen with a certificate with the Town Seal signifying the honor and shall cause the name of the honoree to be inscribed on a plaque to be displayed along with the original Boston Post Cane.

Residency Requirement:

To be eligible to receive the honor a person must:

- a. Be the oldest living person residing in Falmouth at the time designation is made, **and**
- b. Must have resided in the Town of Falmouth for a minimum of the most recent five year period, **or**
- c. Must have resided in the Town of Falmouth for a minimum of the most recent two-year period and have been a legal resident of Falmouth for a total of not less than fifteen of the past forty years, **and**
- d. Must be able and willing to receive the honor in person or through a family member.