



**Town of Allenstown  
Board of Selectmen  
16 School St.  
Allenstown, NH 03275  
603-485-4276**

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Attention Allenstown Residents,

In August 1909, the Boston Post newspaper, sent 700 towns\* (no cities included) in New England a gold-headed ebony cane with a request that it be presented with the compliments of the Boston Post to the oldest male citizen of the town (expanded eligibility to women in 1930), to be used by him/her as long as he/she lives (or moves from the town). The canes belong to the towns and are lent out to the oldest citizen until they pass, and it is handed down to the next oldest citizen of the town at that time. The cane belongs to the town and not the man/woman who receive it.

The canes were all made by J.F. Fradley and Co., a New York manufacturer, from ebony shipped in seven-foot lengths from the Congo in Africa. They were cut to cane lengths, seasoned for six months, turned on lathes to the right thickness, coated and polished. They had a 14-carat gold head two inches long, decorated by hand, and a ferruled tip. The head was engraved with the inscription, — Presented by the Boston Post to the oldest citizen of Allenstown — “To Be Transmitted”. The Board of Selectmen are the trustees of the cane and keep it always in the hands of the oldest citizen.

With that said, Allenstown has not issued out the cane for a few years now and wish to reconvene the tradition. The cane given out will be a replica of the original cane.

**The Allenstown Board of Selectmen are asking your help to locate the oldest resident in Allenstown. This person can also be a resident that has been placed in residential care out of town as long as they are still considered a resident of Allenstown. If there is any doubt about eligibility, then please send us the information and the Board of Selectmen will determine eligibility.**

The Board of Selectmen would like to present this person with the Boston Post Cane (replica) at one of our regular meetings in April. If you believe a family member or friends of yours could be this person or is nearing the age where they could be this person, then please email Sandy at [smckenney@allenstownnh.gov](mailto:smckenney@allenstownnh.gov) or you could call her at 603-485-7187. In fact, we will use the submittals to determine future recipients of the cane.

We will need the following information :

Name  
Address  
Contact name  
Contact phone number  
Date of birth

Please have information to Sandy by March 26, 2022

Thank you,  
Board of Selectmen  
Allenstown