



**GARDINER CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET**



Meeting Date	02/19/2020	Department	City Council
Agenda Item	4.12 Spirit of America 2020 Nominations		
Est. Cost	n/a		

Background Information

Each year the Mayor and City Council are asked to select the recipient of the "Spirit of America" award for the City of Gardiner. Attached is the email reminder that the City Manager received in January from Bruce Flaherty, which also provides a background on the award. Presentation of this award should occur in April during National Volunteer Month.

Requested Action	'I move to advise and consent to the Mayor the nomination of _____ as the 2020 Spirit of America Award Recipient.'
City Manager and/or Finance Review	The City Manager recommends the above action.
Council Vote/ Action Taken	
Departmental Follow-Up	

City Clerk Use Only	1 st Reading _____	Advertised _____	EFFECTIVE DATE _____
	2 nd Reading _____	Advertised _____ w/in 15 Days	
	Final to Dept _____	Updated Book _____	Online _____

Christine Landes

From: Bruce Flaherty <bwflah@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 7:41 PM
To: Christine Landes
Subject: For City Council: 2020 Gardiner Spirit of America Tribute

Dear Christine & Other Gardiner Officials,

Hope you're enjoying a great 2020 & thank you for your city choosing such a deserving recipient (Friends of Christ Church) of the 2019 Spirit of America Foundation award – Gardiner is listed with pride on Foundation website <https://www.spiroaft.com/gems>

Invitation:

Your City Council is asked to pick the local person, project or group to receive the 2020 Gardiner Spirit of America Foundation Tribute for outstanding community service using your own criteria and to honor the recipient (presumably with a resolution or proclamation) at a Council meeting in April (National Volunteer Month). We'll need to know (see end of this e-mail) about the recipient to facilitate an anticipated Fall event honoring all 2020 Spirit of America award winners throughout Kennebec County.

Best/simplest strategy for most communities: choose the one to whom your annual town report is dedicated as Spirit of America winner and honor them (perhaps posthumously) at the annual town meeting – it's a well-attended event (great publicity for those honored) & is a nice tradition to which folks will look forward!

Your Council may choose and honor the city's Spirit of America recipient each year without waiting to hear from us.

County event:

The 2020 privilege granted to Maine municipalities to choose Spirit of America Foundation Tribute winners expires on June 30. For any municipality not informing us of its Spirit of America recipient by 6/30, its county officials have permission to pick the 2020 winner. That sensible arrangement gives towns plenty of time to make a selection, helps counties with planning/preparing certificates for their annual Spirit of America event, and could ensure the county ceremony publicizes community service for each town.

Fifteen Maine counties already have hosted ceremonies honoring their towns' recipients of the 2019 Spirit of America Foundation Tribute – visit <https://www.cumberlandcounty.org/CivicMedia?VID=November-12-2019-Monthly-Commissioner-Me-112#player> to watch an exciting event!

Background:

Spirit of America Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity established in Augusta, ME to encourage volunteerism & it allows the Spirit of America Foundation Tribute to be presented in the name of any Maine municipality. There is no fee involved, and local officials chose their community's 2019 Spirit of America winner in 195+ towns!

The first Spirit of America Foundation award was presented to Alma Jones by Augusta Mayor William Burney on Nov. 26, 1991. Maine Governors John Baldacci and Angus King and Maine Municipal Association Director Chris Lockwood are among many who have played key roles at one of the 500+ Spirit of America ceremonies over the years. You can find more info about the Foundation on website <https://www.spiroaft.com/gems> (where the 'Municipal Resolution' page has sample resolutions, and the 'Honored Ever' page lists towns' previous winners).

A municipality may achieve Spirit of America's Gold Distinction by presenting the Spirit of America Foundation Tribute at the annual town meeting or inauguration, during an annual community festival, or during National Volunteer Month (April). Qualifying towns are listed on the 'Gold Distinction' page at website <https://www.spiroaft.com/gems> (and you may find a link to this site in Maine Municipal's <https://www.memun.org> website under 'Recent Announcements').

2019 Gold Distinction towns included: Abbot, Arrowsic, Baldwin, Bangor, Bath, Belgrade, Benton, Bethel, Bradley, Bremen, Brooks, Burlington, Canaan, Caratunk, Caribou, Casco, Castle Hill, Chapman, Chelsea, China, Columbia Falls, Corinna, Cornish, Cushing, Damariscotta, Dixfield, Dresden, Durham, Eliot, Embden, Enfield, Etna, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Freedom, Fryeburg, Georgetown, Gray, Greene, Greenville, Guilford, Hanover, Harmony, Hartland, Hiram, Hollis, Island Falls, Jackman, Jay, Kennebunkport, Kingfield, Knox, Lamoine, Lebanon, Lewiston, Lincolnville, Lisbon,

Livermore, Lyman, Machiasport, Madison, Mapleton, Mercer, Mexico, Millinocket, Moose River, Mount Desert, Mount Vernon, New Portland, Newcastle, Newfield, Newry, Norridgewock, North Berwick, North Yarmouth, Oakland, Owls Head, Palermo, Parkman, Phippsburg, Pittsfield, Pittston, Poland, Pownal, Raymond, Readfield, Ripley, Rome, Roxbury, Rumford, Sabattus, Searsport, Sebago, Shapleigh, Shirley, Sidney, Skowhegan, Smithfield, Solon, Somerville, South Berwick, St. Albans, Standish, Starks, Stockton Springs, Surry, Swanville, Temple, Troy, Union, Vassalboro, Waldoboro, Wales, Washington, Wayne, Weld, West Bath, Whitefield, Wilton, Winterport, Winthrop, Woodstock, Woolwich.

If by Feb. 28 you tell us Gardiner has picked its 2020 Spirit of America winner, we'll publicize your city as a 'Pacesetter'!

In any case, by June 30 please let us know the name, mailing address and an accomplishment of Gardiner's 2020 Spirit of America recipient and the occasion of your local award ceremony (see end of this e-mail).

Thanks for your immense help to volunteerism!

Bruce Flaherty, President
Maine Spirit of America
(a chapter of Spirit of America Foundation)
622-7311, bwflah@gmail.com

These past Spirit of America winners might trigger ideas for your selection:
Connor Barry, a youth, raised \$275 from Hot Chocolate sales and bought needy kids Xmas gifts.
FHC, Inc. (a business) runs several community projects, including fundraisers for fire dept. & school.
The Herring Family has volunteered and held many municipal positions over a 200-year period.
Vernon Stevens is police officer saving lives of two youths as their home was engulfed in flames.
Eugene Turner has overcome handicaps, goes out of his way to aid those needing help/guidance.

We anticipate the most common 2020 scenario will be that towns present a resolution (and the 'Municipal Resolution' page at spiroaft.com/gems has samples) to their Spirit of America winner at the annual town meeting.

After your city selects its 2020 winner, please follow these steps to enter the info we need from 'you':

Go to website <https://www.spiroaft.com/soald>

You possibly see 'Access denied' and 'You are not authorized to access this page.'

Click 'Login' link at top right, enter 'saT-88' for both Username and Password, then click 'Log in' button, click 'Home'.

Enter 'Town', 'Winner Name', 'Winner Mailing Address', 'Winner Accomplishments' (at least 15 words), Occasion of award presentation/'Distinction', 'Dedication', 'Name of Committee Choosing Winner', 'Your Name', 'Your Title', 'County', then click 'Submit'.

Thank you so much for your help!