

The
Daily News
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Newburyport Community Preservation Committee
c/o Office of Planning and Development
Newburyport City Hall
60 Pleasant St.
Newburyport, MA. 01950

Dear Community Preservation Committee members,

I'm writing in support of the Newburyport Preservation Trust's proposed project to fund, create and install two interpretive signs in the Garrison Gardens at Atwood Park, across from William Lloyd Garrison's birthplace at 3-5 School St.

As editor of the local newspaper that evolved from the Newburyport paper where Garrison got his start, I wholeheartedly support this project to further recognize Garrison's Newburyport roots and the historic role he played in the abolitionist movement and in American journalism.

It's my understanding that one sign will focus on his role as a leading voice in the abolitionist movement of the 19th century, his work as a journalist and suffragist. The second sign will give context for the house where he was born, across the street.

Installation of the signs was approved by the Parks Commission at its October 2020 meeting. These proposed signs will complement, rather than duplicate, information on interpretive signs near the Garrison statue in Brown Square. Historian Kate Larson has agreed to write the text on Garrison, while the Preservation Trust will have ultimate responsibility for the text and historical photos of Garrison's birthplace, which will be included.


I believe, along with others supporting this project, the signs will help educate the public about Garrison's accomplishments and role in American history, and will identify the importance of his birthplace to our city and the nation.

As a journalist with more than four decades in the business, I take great pride in knowing I live and work in the city where William Lloyd Garrison was born, spent his early years and got his start in journalism which became such an essential part of his life.

The more our city can do to highlight Garrison's life, the more his legacy is bonded with the fabric that makes the history of Newburyport so important for our community.

Thank you for your support of this project.

Sincerely,


Richard K. Lodge
Editor

The Daily News of Newburyport