

CHARLESTOWN REMEMBERS BILL LAMB

The Charlestown community mourns the loss of our friend and neighbor Bill Lamb. We will remember him as an activist at the heart of every fight in the Town. We will never forget his legacy shaping our one-square-mile for the better.

Bill was uncompromising when it came to holding outside interests to the standards he believed the Town deserved. He shepherded conversations towards productive resolutions while holding developers accountable.

We'll miss his perspective as we develop a master plan that will define Charlestown for decades to come. Bill helped us get to this point: we've learned so much from him, and now it's our turn to carry on his legacy. When fighting to preserve a thriving Charlestown, I will do so in memory of Bill.

~ Boston City Councilor Lydia Edwards is the district councilor for Charlestown, East Boston and the North End.

It seems I always knew Bill. I first worked with him on the North Area Task Force. It took a while before I realized who was the task force anchor, making sure the project happened.

Make it happen: that's the phrase I associate with Bill. He did the hard work of research, and then he communicated with proponents and opponents alike. Bill listened really well. He knew all the ins and outs of zoning, and we benefited mightily from his wisdom.

Bill's dogged pursuit of the best for Charlestown made us realize the value of the amazing group of architects, designers and residents that Bill drew into the Charlestown Preservation Society's Design Review Committee, which serves as a resource and sounding board for us all. I must remind people of a time when the Design Review Committee consisted of Bill and me. I readily tell you that it was not me who kept it going.

In the late 1990s we were occupied with a much-needed rezoning effort. There were public meetings for each of our seven precincts, and the only public that arrived to hear all the debates and speak up for the betterment of our town was none other than our Bill Lamb.

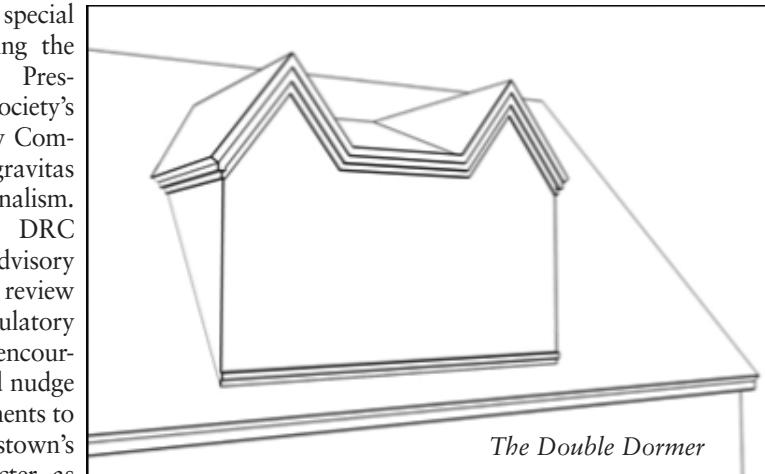
We have a lot to live up to, but he showed us the way.

~ Margaret Bradley is a member of the Charlestown Neighborhood Council and the Design Review Committee.

Bill had a special gift, imbuing the Charlestown Preservation Society's Design Review Committee with gravitas and professionalism. Because the DRC provides advisory architectural review and has no regulatory authority, we encourage, cajole and nudge project proponents to respect Charlestown's historic character as best they can.

Bill suffered the slings and arrows of outrageous proposals with appropriate guidance and suggestions gently delivered. He defied the characterization of the Committee as "those preservation folks" and reminded us that what's truly important is high-quality architecture and urban design. He facilitated design review as a way to manage change, not an attempt to freeze time.

Bill may or may not have introduced the connected double-dormer motif to Charlestown, but he promoted it as a respectful way to capture additional floor area without destroying roof and cornice lines. This solution was among the tools Bill employed for "getting to yes."



The Double Dormer

~ Jack Glassman, AIA, LEED AP is a Design Review Committee member.

In Bill Lamb's eyes, Charlestown was a special place that required little intervention. He gave decades of service and architectural knowledge to protect our heritage and ensure that inevitable change fit seamlessly into the fabric of this historic neighborhood.

I will miss seeing Bill walking our streets monitoring change, taking in our history and enjoying his community. I honor him for the gift he bestowed upon us: the preservation of this beautiful historic neighborhood for future generations.

~ Amanda Zettel is president of the Charlestown Preservation Society.



Bill leads a walking tour through Charlestown

How does one capture a lifetime in a few short paragraphs? It's not possible, especially considering the immense contributions Bill Lamb made to our community.

His life's work shaped what has been built (or not built) in Charlestown. It was rare to attend a community meeting when he was not in attendance. He had a quiet, gentlemanly manner, but he was a fierce advocate for our community, its fabric and architectural character.

Bill was the ultimate professional, and his work for the community was a personal passion. When I come home to Charlestown now I feel the emptiness: part of its soul is missing.

The architect Ludwig Mies Van der Rohe said "God is in the details." In Charlestown, Bill is in the details. His professional hand and heart will live on forever in Charlestown.

~ Heather Taylor, AIA, LEED AP BD+C is former president of the Charlestown Preservation Society and member of the CPS Design Review Committee.

Bill Lamb was a quiet and gentle soul who will be remembered as a giant in the story of preservation in Charlestown. For 40 years he left his mark here, from the development of City Square Park to the ongoing fight for a more livable solution for Rutherford Avenue and Sullivan Square.

When I met Bill in 2005, little did I know that he would become my mentor. I learned from him in real time the importance of zoning laws and Article 80 processes, but more importantly the role of citizen involvement in preserving historic Charlestown.

As Charlestown Preservation Society president, I worked with Bill on the fight for the right development for One Charlestown and Hood Park and on our early efforts to document critical historic homes in Charlestown.

I can't think of a time when Bill was not present at a meeting that might affect development in Charlestown. He was the steady voice for the CPS Design Review Committee and well-respected by everyone from city planners to the Mayor.

I will miss my friend Bill. I remember coming back from a Boston Preservation Alliance meeting on the T and discovering it was pouring rain as we walked home. I had no hat or umbrella and Bill had just the fisherman's cap he wore. He offered me his hat.

That is just the kind of guy Bill was. We will miss him.

~ Ellen Kitzis is former president of the Charlestown Preservation Society.

We were greatly saddened by the recent passing of our friend Bill Lamb. I say friend because at an event one night he told me he loved Memorial Hall and asked if he could explore a bit. That resulted in many visits that cemented our friendship while we explored the old widow frames, molding and trim examples from the 1790s to 1890s.

His knowledge of historic architecture was extensive. And he was the quintessential gentleman, always well-mannered and eager to share his knowledge. Charlestown has lost a great asset to the community.

~ Joe Zuffante is President of Memorial Hall Inc.