

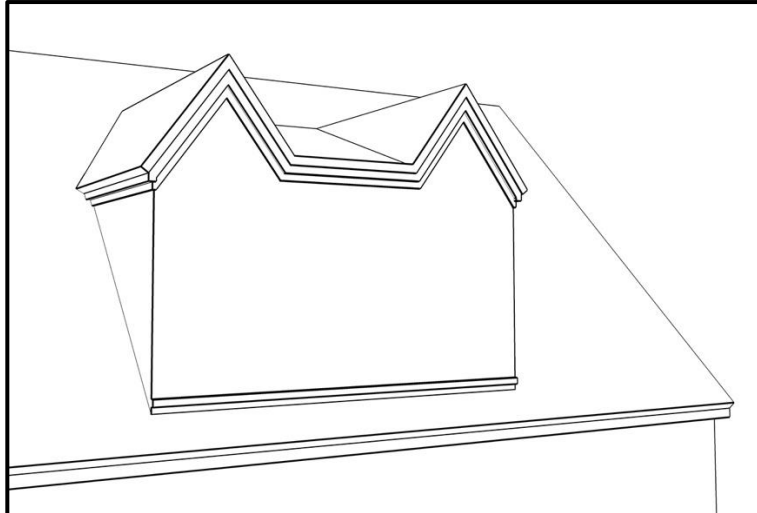
Bill Lamb had a special gift, imbuing the Charlestown Preservation Society’s Design Review Committee with gravitas and professionalism. Because the DRC provides *advisory* architectural review rather than official regulatory authority, we generally encourage, cajole and nudge project proponents to respect and support Charlestown’s historic character as best they can.

Some homeowners, developers and architects agree to appear before the DRC simply to “check the box” en route to various permit approvals. Bill Lamb suffered the slings and arrows of outrageous proposals with appropriate guidance and suggestions gently delivered.

Defying the characterization of the Committee as a clique of “those preservation folks,” he reminded us all that what’s truly important in new construction, historic rehabilitation and adaptive use is high-quality architecture and urban design. Bill understood and facilitated design review as a way to manage change rather than an attempt to freeze time.

Bill’s accommodating manner did not belie his aversion to suburban-style garage-door fronts or his conscientious attention to correct and historically-appropriate detail. His *pro bono* window replacement study for Charlestown’s Memorial Hall illustrated how to retrofit the original framed openings with modern window units and trim, incorporating traditional molding profiles and preserving glass sightlines.

If I could identify a single architectural element with Bill Lamb’s tenure as DRC chairman, it would be the gabled roof dormer. Bill may or may not have introduced the connected double-dormer motif to Charlestown, but he often promoted it as a respectful way to capture additional floor area without destroying roof and cornice lines of rowhouses and workers’ cottages. This solution and other tweaks were tools Bill employed for “getting to yes.”



Jack Glassman, AIA, LEED AP is a Charlestown resident and Design Review Committee member.