

The Charlestown community mourns the loss of our incredible friend and neighbor, William Lamb. We will remember him as an activist and educator at the heart of every fight in the Town, and we will never forget his legacy that helped shape our one-square-mile for the better.

I'll remember Bill as kind, inquisitive and extremely intelligent. I first met him while campaigning as a first-time candidate for Boston City Council in 2017. He asked pointed questions and he had encyclopedic knowledge of everything from zoning and historic preservation to transportation and environmental issues.

Bill advocated to make the process around the redevelopment of Bunker Hill more transparent and responsive to the community. His passion to improve the quality of life for all Charlestown residents was clear, and I saw first-hand how highly invested he was in fighting for his community.

Bill was an expert in urban planning and had great insight into the City's permitting and zoning regulations. He channeled this expertise as an effective community activist and played an integral role during many negotiations for mitigation throughout the years.

Most notably, Bill single-handedly led the charge against a proposal that would've constructed an elevated highway straight through City Square. His activism ensured that current and future residents of Charlestown could enjoy in perpetuity the open air park they know today.

In recent years he remained the same reliable, steady yet effective fixture at community meetings. I found his ability impressive to shepherd conversations towards productive resolutions while holding developers accountable. Bill was uncompromising when it came to holding outside interests to the standards he believed the Town deserved.

I will always be grateful for his periodic calls and emails with words of wisdom on various proposals in the City. His invaluable perspective will be dearly missed as we develop a master plan that will define Charlestown for decades to come.

Bill helped us get to this point, and we owe a great deal to his efforts and advocacy. We've learned so much from him, and now it is our turn to carry on his legacy. When speaking truth to power and fighting to preserve a thriving Charlestown, I will do so in memory of Bill.

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