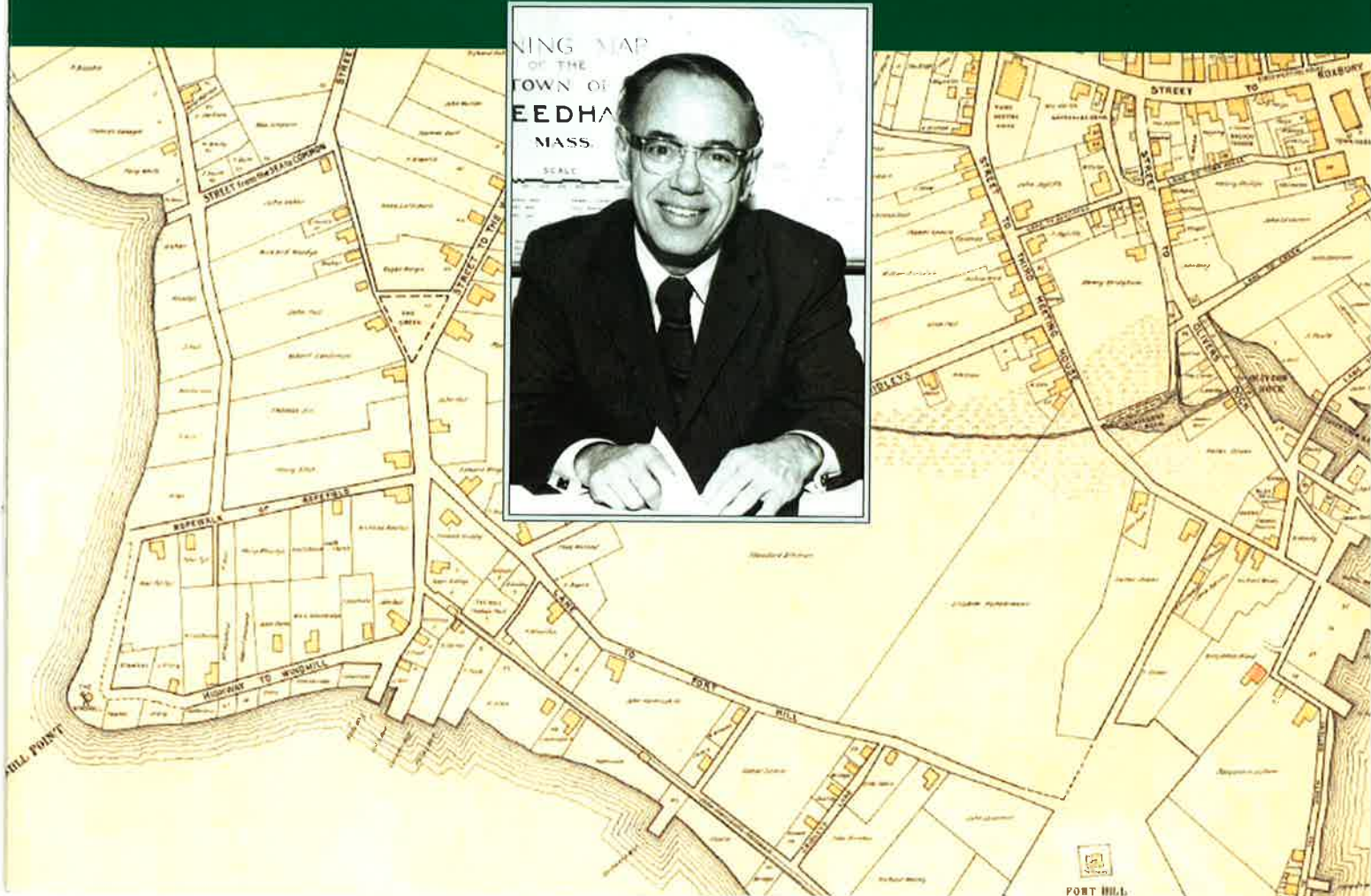


# Charles E. Downe Memorial Fund Award



## Charles E. Downe, the Memorial Fund, and the Award



The Charles E. Downe Memorial Fund was established by former students and colleagues of Charles Downe who knew him as an outstanding professional, teacher, and citizen. Out of the fund, the Charles E. Downe Memorial Award was created, which annually honors a planner who exemplifies the same qualities as Charles Downe. Originally presented at the annual meeting of the Massachusetts Federation of Planning and Appeals Boards, of which Charlie was a former president, the award is now presented at the awards meeting of the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Planning Association.

Charles Downe was born in White Plains, New York. He graduated from the Yale School of Engineering in 1934, after which he was attached to the United States Army Corps of Engineers in Nashville, Tennessee. Later, in Providence, Rhode Island, he worked on flood control projects. From 1941 to 1950, Charlie was with the New Haven Planning Department, where he was director for four years. He continued his career as the first planning director in Worcester, where he was when the 1953 storm battered the area, which so dramatically affected the city. Following his work in Worcester, Charlie became the director of the Division of Planning in the Massachusetts Department of Commerce. In 1957, he resigned to establish the Boston firm of Economic Development Associates in partnership with Richard Preston. In 1960, he established his own firm with offices in Newton. Peter Wells became a partner of the firm in 1982. As a consultant, Charlie served many Massachusetts cities and towns, including Newton, Acton, Grafton, Worcester, and Kingston.

### **Professional, Civic, and Personal Highlights**

- Professional and Civic Activities
- Massachusetts Federation of Planning and Appeals Boards, President
- Rhode Island University Graduate Program in City and Regional Planning, Adjunct Assistant Professor
- American Institute of Certified Planners, Member
- Needham Finance Committee, Chair
- Needham Board of Appeals, Chair
- Norfolk County Mosquito Control District, Member
- Needham Congregational, Member of the Board of Deacons
- Massachusetts Consulting Planners, Participant in its formation
- Registered Professional Engineer
- Needham Town Meeting, Member

### **Awards**

- Outstanding Citizen, Needham Board of Appeals
- Outstanding Civic Leader, Needham-Newton Chamber of Commerce



### **Contributions and Qualities**

Former students and colleagues attributed the following to him:

- High personal and professional code of ethics
- Patience and attention to detail
- Availability and willingness to explain, assist, and advise on professional and personal matters

In addition, he was a mentor and advocate in his profession:

- He exemplified integrity, patience, professional competence, and the highest ethics.
- He encouraged young planners, especially at the University of Rhode Island, where he was a faculty member.
- He supported planners and planning legislation.

Charles Downe had many interests, including baseball and philately, and was a member of local and national stamp clubs. He was instrumental in arranging for a planning stamp, issued by the United States Post Office when a national conference was held in Boston.

His children are Richard A. Downe of Sidney, Maine; Margery D. Brady of Westport, Connecticut; and Barbara D. Rukstalis of Walpole, Massachusetts.

## Distinguished Planners Among Previous Recipients

### 1990 B. Allen Benjamin, AICP

Born in Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts, Allen Benjamin was perhaps best known as one of the founders of the Sudbury Valley Trustees in 1953, making SVT one of the oldest land trusts in Massachusetts. Since then, SVT has been successfully protecting open space in the Sudbury, Concord, and Assabet River Valleys. Allen first came to eastern Massachusetts to study at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, though he moved on to graduate work at Cornell University, a brief period of work for the Tennessee Valley Authority, and a stint in the Navy during the Second World War before returning to Massachusetts to work for the State Planning Board (later the Commonwealth's Department of Community Affairs and now the Department of Housing and Community Development) before teaching for several years at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. While teaching at WPI, Allen also established his own firm and worked for many years as a consulting planner based in Wayland and was a longtime member of the Town of Wayland's Board of Assessors. Allen was also highly regarded as a visual artist.

### 1993 Carol J. Thomas, FAICP

Carol Thomas, a land use planning consultant, is a Fellow and past president of the American Institute of Certified Planners and past chair of its Private Practice Division and its Division Council. Carol has taught land use planning at the University of Rhode Island and the Harvard University School of Design.

Carol has served as a member and president of the Planning Board of the Massachusetts Association of Consulting Planners and a director of the Massachusetts Federation of Planning and Appeals Boards. She has consulted for cities and towns in the United States and China and has lectured and written about land use, soils interpretation for land use planning, residential density, and related subjects.

### 1995 Alexander Zaleski

Born in St. Petersburg, Russia, Alex Zaleski immigrated with his wife to the United States via New York in 1951. Mr. Zaleski worked for the Town of Needham Planning Department for many years before becoming planning director for the Town of Lexington. He also served as chairman of the Needham Planning Board. He was executive director of the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC). After retirement, Mr. Zaleski continued to work on a freelance basis as a land surveyor until his death in 2006.

### 1999 Robert Mitchell, FAICP

Bob Mitchell is a land use and planning consultant, a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners, and a former Region I Commissioner of the AICP. He is also the past president of the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Planning Association and the Massachusetts Association of Planning Directors. He was previously the special assistant for sustainable development and the special assistant for planning initiatives for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. As planning director, he led an award-winning planning department for the Town of Amherst for 19 years. He has been teaching in the Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning Department at UMass Amherst for more than 20 years.

He has led, participated in, and supported numerous professional activities and organizations. His career exemplifies the best attributes of a professional planner, educator, and leader.

Bob has a B.A. in history from Providence College and a master of regional planning from UMass Amherst, from which he received the Distinguished Alumni Award.

### 2003 Donald Schmidt

Don Schmidt was a land use planner for the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development and worked in the area of land use and land use regulations 40 years. He wrote numerous publications dealing with zoning, land use, and subdivision control, which include *The ANR Handbook*, *An Overview of the Subdivision Control Law*, *Preparation of a Local Zoning Bylaw*, *Local Planning and Management*, and *The National Flood Insurance Program*. He was also the author of *The Land Use Manager*, a publication focusing on land use regulation issues that was widely used by professionals and citizens throughout the Commonwealth.

He served on various municipal boards, including the Planning Board, the Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Board of Selectmen. He served on the Board of Directors of the Citizen Planner Training Collaborative and the Massachusetts Federation of Planning and Appeals Boards and is a lifetime honorary member of the Massachusetts Building Commissioners and Inspectors Association.

Don received numerous recognitions throughout his career that include the Executive Office of Communities and Development's Pride in Performance Award, the Massachusetts Federation of Planning and Appeals Boards' Joseph Magaldi Distinguished Service Award, the New England Chapter of the American Planning Association's Distinguished Leadership Award, the Massachusetts City Solicitors and Town Counsels Association's President's Award, the Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission's Outstanding Contribution to Planning Award, and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission's Regional Recognition Award.

### 2005 Dwight Merriam, FAICP

Dwight H. Merriam of Robinson & Cole LLP is a Fellow and past president of the American Institute of Certified Planners, a former director of the American Planning Association, a former chair of the APA's Planning and Law Division, and a past chair of the American Bar Association's Section of State and Local Government Law. He teaches land use law at the University of Connecticut School of Law and at the Vermont Law School and has published over 200 articles and eight books, including *The Complete Guide to Zoning*. He is the senior co-author of the leading casebook in land use law, *Planning and Control of Land Development* (8th edition).

Dwight received his B.A., *cum laude*, from the University of Massachusetts, his master of regional planning from the University of North Carolina, and his J.D. from Yale.

### 2006 Peter Lowitt, FAICP

Peter Lowitt is director/land use administrator for the Devens Enterprise Commission, the agency charged with permitting the redevelopment of the former Fort Devens army base in Massachusetts. At Devens, Mr. Lowitt focuses on the sustainable redevelopment of the 4400-acre former army base. Prior to coming to Devens, Mr. Lowitt served as director of planning and economic development for the Town of Londonderry, New Hampshire (1993 to 1999), where he developed the Londonderry Ecological Industrial Park and the award-winning Sustainable Londonderry Program.

Mr. Lowitt is the chair of the Eco Industrial Development Council of North America and founding chair of Green Roofs for Healthy Cities, the trade association of the green roof industry in North America. He has been active in the planning and economic development profession and was recently elected as a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners. He

has served as past chair of the Economic Development Division of the American Planning Association and past president of the Massachusetts Chapter of APA and is a former president of the New Hampshire Planners Association.

Mr. Lowitt has a B.A. in history from Brown University (1979) and an M.A. in community economic development from the Urban Environmental Policy Graduate Program at Tufts University (1992).

### **2007 James Miller**

Educated in landscape architecture at the University of Massachusetts and in regional planning at Cornell University, Jim Miller began his professional career as an associate planner for the City of Ithaca, New York. His next career move was to work for Charles E. Downe, planning consultant, and then for Edwards and Kelcey, a consulting firm in Boston. In 1964, he became planning director of the City of Newton, where Charles Downe's office was located. In 1969, he left Newton to become deputy executive director of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, a position he held for eight years. He then entered private practice as a planning and development consultant.

Jim is a charter member of the American Planning Association and of the American Institute of Certified Planners. He has been an active participant in each of these organizations as well as in civic organizations. He is always available to assist other planners, provide information and advice, and share his knowledge. If you were to ask the community of Massachusetts planners who was most like Charles Downe, Jim Miller would be at the top of virtually everyone's list.

### **2008 Robert Ritchie**

Bob Ritchie, a graduate of Boston College High School, majored in Greek and classics as an undergraduate at Boston College, graduated from Boston College Law School, and received a master of arts degree in philosophy from the University of Massachusetts.

He served as counsel for the Town of Amherst and special counsel to numerous cities and towns until 1997, when he became director of the Municipal Law Division in the Office of the Attorney General of the Commonwealth. He has also served as general counsel to the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Resources.

Bob is a member of the bar in Massachusetts and New Hampshire and is known to the planning profession, municipal officials, and citizens for his articulate explanation of the law, his resolution of problems, and his humor, patience, and considered advice. He has advised the Zoning Reform Committee on the law and on construction of proposed legislation. He is always available to professional and citizen planners to explain the law or give requested advice.

Bob has been recognized with awards from the Municipal Lawyers Association, which granted him the 1997 Public Service Award; the Massachusetts Bar Association, which granted him the 1997 Public Service Award; the City Solicitors and Town Counsel Association, which granted him the 1998 President's Award; and the International Municipal Lawyers Association, which in 2008 granted him the Charles S. Rhyne Lifetime Achievement Award.

### **2009 Phil Herr**

Phil Herr is the principal of Philip B. Herr and Associates, which consults in community-based local and regional planning for land use, growth management, housing, and historic preservation. He is also an adjunct professor of city planning, MIT's Department of Urban Studies and Planning (retired), where he teaches courses and directs research in growth and land use management, impact analysis, and energy planning.

Phil is also a member emeritus of the Board of Advisors for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, where he served on the board's Executive Committee and was a past chair, Northeast Region. His memberships include the American Planning Association, the Urban Land Institute, the Newton Comprehensive

Planning Advisory Committee (chair), the Newton Housing Partnership (chair), and the Newton Housing Action Plan Initiative (HAPI, as founder and chair). He was a registered architect in Massachusetts from 1963 to 2003.

Phil is a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he obtained a master of city planning and was awarded a J.C. Nichols Fellowship, and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, where he earned a bachelor of architecture degree. He was a member of Tau Beta Pi and Sigma Xi and was awarded the Thesis Prize.

### 2010 Howard Foster, Jr., AICP

Howard Foster, Ph.D., has devoted his life to teaching and mentoring at least two generations of planners, hundreds of them practicing far and wide. Dr. Foster earned a B.A. from Harvard, where he was elected to Phi Kappa Phi, a master of city planning from Yale, and a Ph.D. from Cornell.

From 1963 to 2002, Dr. Foster served on the faculty of the University of Rhode Island in the graduate curriculum in community planning and area development, where he was the first faculty member, teaching graduate professional courses and undertaking research. He ultimately became the director of the graduate curriculum in community planning and area development and the director and department chair of the University of Rhode Island's Department of Community Planning and Landscape Architecture. Dr. Foster was promoted to tenured associate professor in 1972 and became emeritus associate professor in 2002.

In addition to his teaching, Dr. Foster has had a research affiliation with the Agricultural Experiment Station since 1991. He has also served the profession as acting director of the Rhode Island Cooperative Extension Service.

Dr. Foster is a member of the American Planning Association, Rhode Island Chapter, which honored him with the President's Distinguished Service Award, and a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners.

### 2011 Terry Szold

Terry Szold, MRP, is an adjunct professor of land use planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she serves as a practitioner and educator in land use and growth management. She has more than 20 years of experience in land use, strategic, and comprehensive planning. She is the principal of Community Planning Solutions (CPS), based in Andover, Massachusetts.

Terry received her master's degree in regional planning from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and an undergraduate degree from Bard College in New York. She is a member of the American Planning Association and the Massachusetts Association of Consulting Planners. Terry has been a faculty associate and a member of the Research Advisory Committee at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and was a Zoning Clinic faculty member of Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education, Inc.

Prior to her appointment at MIT, Terry served as planning director for the Town of Burlington, Massachusetts, for over seven years and was extensively involved in developing and preparing performance-based zoning techniques. She was also actively involved in preparing various elements of the Town of Burlington's new master plan. Before her work in Burlington, she was development manager for the City of Chicopee, Massachusetts, and the long-range planner for the City of Nashua, New Hampshire. Terry has been a featured panelist at numerous seminars and conferences focusing on community planning, land use law and regulation, and transportation and design-related issues.



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