

Sun
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Donor surfaces as Gale School preservation appeared to hit a wall

To The Daily Sun,

This letter will serve as an update on the attempt to save the Gale School in Belmont.

Just when it seemed we had hit yet another wall that stopped us dead, and as the Shaker School Board is taking bids on the demolition of the building, a gentleman (who wishes to remain anonymous at this time) contacted us with an extremely generous offer. He has offered to donate all the site-work preparation when/if another location is found for the school. He is also spearheading an attempt to find donations of necessary gravel, sand etc. that will be needed, as well as possible concrete that will be needed for the foundation.

To be honest, I had given up hope that this perfectly sound, historic Belmont icon might be saved. The town has been adamant that they do not want another building that will need to be retrofitted and restored. The Shaker School District views the building as "in the way" and not impor-

tant to them. This put our little group between a rock and a hard place when attempting to acquire possible grants and donations. This "orphan" had no place to go, nor did it have any value to the Town or the School District.

This recent development has revived our hope, that someone would step up and donate such an important and costly construction step, as well as try to locate others who might also want to take part in such a worthy goal is nothing short of phenomenal.

The Mill was saved and now serves as a centerpiece to the recent revitalization project in the Village. Belmont has few historical buildings left. The Gale School was also an important part of our town's history, and provided the education of many Belmont students over the years. It is our hope that this is the start of its preservation. It will be a tragic waste if it succumbs to the wrecking ball.

Ken Knowlton
Belmont