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An Update from the Director

Dear Friends,

As August comes to an end, I wanted to update everyone on the status of Newlin Grist Mill and to say thank you. The outpouring of support from our community has been inspiring at one of the most challenging times in our organization's history. The back-to-back floods accomplished what the Rt 322 Project and the pandemic could not – temporarily closing Newlin Grist Mill.

The expression of support and offers of assistance are encouraging to everyone working at the Mill. Your generous donations are very much appreciated and have allowed us to stabilize the buildings and will help fix damage throughout the property. We are also grateful for giving us the time to assess the damage throughout the property and prepare a plan for dealing with this setback.

The Visitor Center was hit the hardest with seven inches of water running through the first floor. The Archive received masonry damage and destruction of its mechanical systems. Both dams, the diversion channel, and millrace were damaged. There were over 165 cubic yards of materials washed out of the trails. The initial estimate is over \$175,000 worth of damage, but that figure will increase as we incorporate stream stabilization and mitigation of future flooding into our assessment. Flood insurance will cover approximately one-third of these expenses; therefore, we are developing other strategies for raising the remainder.

The Newlin Grist Mill and its surrounding park will remain closed until the trails and parking lots can be made safe for our visitors. This includes fixing the washed-out trails, replacing paving, removing trees and hanging limbs, replacing bridges, and fixing holes around the property. Our plan is to get the trails open as soon as possible but please be patient as there is a lot to do. We are working on ways to safely include volunteers into this process and will keep you informed.

The floods combined with the pandemic mean that all events and in-person programs will be canceled for the remainder of 2020. We will continue to offer virtual programs and to develop more online content. Our energies will be focused on completing repairs and making the Newlin Grist Mill better when we reopen.

We are all working hard to reopen the Newlin Grist Mill. The dedication of the staff and volunteers is inspiring as they labor to make the site safe and ready to welcome everyone back.

If you want to contribute to the recovery efforts, please consider a donation, spread the word among your own networks, and stay up to date on all that's happening through our website (<http://newlingristmill.org>), Facebook ([@newlingristmill](https://www.facebook.com/newlingristmill)), and Instagram ([@newlingristmill1704](https://www.instagram.com/newlingristmill1704)). Together we will be able to #bringbackthemill !

--Tony Shahan, Director
Newlin Grist Mill