



Jericho Historical Society 2023 Report

The initial disaster at the Red Mill occurred on October 31, 2019, as a torrential rainstorm caused part of the riverbank along the Browns River at the Red Mill to wash away and tumble into the river, compromising the bank and driveway to the Mill. Engineers developed a proposal for the riverbank repairs and the specs were put out for bid. Dubois and King with their subcontractor ECI submitted the only bid for the repairs to the damage. During the process the estimated cost for the restoration increased from \$300,000 to \$700,000. The town received a grant from NCRS to cover the work which required the Historical Society to pay a percentage of the cost amounting to \$97,000. Thanks to fund raising work by Louise Miglionico the Historical Society raised this amount and paid it to the town. The decision was made by the town to raise the additional funds from the money built into the town budget for preservation of the Mill. This funding was the result of work by Randy Clark who proposed, and the voters of Jericho approved, that the town annually support repairs and preservation of the Mill for the amount of \$18,650 per year for the next ten years (this represents the year the Mill was expanded).

When work started on the riverbank, concerns quickly arose that the vibrations from the construction would deepen a crack in the Red Mill foundation, that it is believed has been there for over sixty years.

Construction was halted and it was determined that additional study would need to be done to examine where the bedrock and the Mill foundation make contact in order to ensure that the foundation was not further compromised.

A plan was developed to accomplish this by

1. Dropping the level of the river enough to expose the Mill foundation for inspection.
2. Repairing the crack and doing the necessary work to stabilize the foundation.

ECI attempted to remove debris in the river and relocate a boulder to open the channel for the water to drain out of so that the bedrock and foundation crack could be observed. Soon after this work was completed heavy rains caused the drained section of the river to start filling up with debris again. At this time the next step is the engineers are working on a solution.

Despite the construction disruption of the Mill, we have been busy with customers and people interested in Bentley's photographs. We appreciate the support from the public. This would not be possible without the tireless work of our volunteers. If you are a visitor to the Mill, please be sure to thank them.