

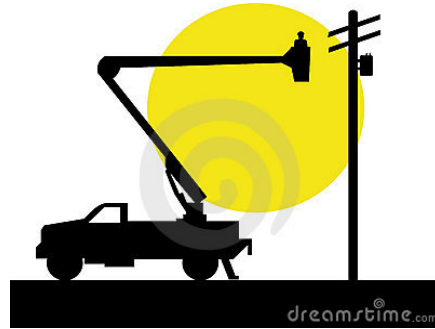
Manager – Jeffrey Ellison

Board Members –

Ed Schwabe – President
Jason Matthews Vice President
Bob Pickup - Treasurer
Eric Chetwynd – Rec. Secretary
George Baker
Joe Staples
Tom McAloon
Eric Staples
Sarah Lane

SWAN'S ISLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

September, 2015



Members with billing questions should contact Karen Griffin at 526-4336 or at siecbilling@gmail.com
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Emergency contact #:

207-479- 0657 and 0658

From the Manager: This is an update to Tuesday, Sept. 1 activities to find the fault in one of our marine cables. We took the power down at 10:10 am. The Three-C Company – an industrial electric company out of Augusta - had engineers at Lopus Point and Swan's Island along with specialty equipment capable of sending pulses along the six mile length of our submarine cables. EMERA was also at Lopus Point and Northern Line was on Swan's Island. Three-C started the test on the Swan's Island side. Initial readings indicated a fault very near the Lopus Point end. We packed everything up and took the 1:30 ferry across to Lopus Point. The test there determined that the fault was 339 feet from the top of the pole connection at Lopus Point. The pole is about 239 feet from the high tide line, so the fault appears to be about 100 feet out in the water from the high tide line. The fault was in the green cable marked Phase C at the Lopus Point pole. Power was restored, Islands-wide at about 3:45 PM. The next step is for SIEC to secure a diver and a boat to lift the cable in order to do a splice. The Three-C company has the expertise to do the splicing. Once all the coordination has been made to physically locate the fault, we will set a date for EMERA to return to Lopus Point and there will be another islands-wide, planned power outage while the damaged section of the cable is removed and a new section spliced in. This is not an inexpensive operation. The cost to locate the fault will total a minimum of \$15,000, not including the all- day bills from EMERA and Northern Line. The additional cost of the recovery operation and actual repair is still to be determined.

From the Board: Since Annual Meeting, July 23rd, your Board has been focused on assimilating new Board members (Tom McAloon, Eric Staples, and Sarah Lane), while preparing for discussions with Emera. Face-to face meetings with Emera are tentatively planned to begin during the first half of October. In the meantime Emera personnel can be expected on both islands in order to carry out a detailed inventory and assessment of the condition of our grid.

Last week, at our regular September meeting, the Board unanimously voted to propose a modification to our By-Laws to allow important issues – such as a merger with Emera – to be decided by the entire membership of our Cooperative using a confidential, mailed ballot – rather than a meeting of the membership. Membership meetings rarely bring out more than 90 voting members – even for Annual Meeting. Should an agreement be hammered out with Emera, the Board believes that all 460 voting members of the Cooperative should be afforded an opportunity to vote up or down on such an agreement – and this kind of participation is not achievable – using the membership meeting format.

Consequently, a Special Meeting of the Cooperative will be planned for November to coincide with our Fall Community Update. At that meeting, the Board will discuss the need for this By-Law change - and answer members' questions prior to seeking approval for the By-Law change. Each member can expect to receive notice of the Special Meeting along with the proposed change to the By-Laws included with their October bill.