

SWANS ISLAND ELECTRIC COOP NEWSLETTER

From the Manager:

Since our last newsletter repairs of winter damage to the Fishermen's Co-op 3 phase service line have been completed. While working at the Co-op we made improvements to the single phase service to the adjacent houses to reduce the distance from the houses to their transformers. Bangor Hydro crews also came to the island to begin replacement & upgrade of damaged equipment at the main substation next to the ferry terminal. As most of us have experienced working on aging homes, while doing this work we identified additional problems that we are working to solve. These include old poles, insufficient space and cable configuration to work safely, inadequate fencing & grounding. We have retained an engineering firm to help us develop a technical plan and cost estimate.

One important item to report is that our full time lineman, after a medical leave, will not be returning to work with your coop. We have hired a temporary part-time senior linesman for 3 months to assist in routine works and help prepare capital projects we plan to undertake in the fall. I will be working with your Board during this 3 month period to set up a permanent staffing and implementation plan. This coincides with the Board's search for a permanent Co-op Manager.

We continue to work with the Town Electric Inspector to identify code violations that put the public at risk and alert our members to their responsibilities to correct the problems. This is a difficult process but we are obligated to move forward and bring our

system into compliance with the law.

Our metering manager, Gwen May and our linemen have made 2 trips to Frenchboro for much needed survey and repair work. Our visits were coordinated with the people there who have worked so hard to keep the system functioning. We are working to formalize the relationship between the Co-op and the Frenchboro folks who have been providing support to the Co-op over the years. We plan to be a bigger presence on Frenchboro in the future.

One request worth repeating – for all our members who are seasonal residents – please give us plenty of time before you arrive if you need any electrical work done. We are short handed and we can only schedule certain work when we have our off-island senior lineman here.

From Your Board of Trustees:

WINDPOWER UPDATE:

Our Cooperative's efforts to secure a site for a potential windmill on Bois Bear Ridge has experienced a setback. While four out of the five property owners involved had signed options allowing the Electric Cooperative to lease or purchase their property – should the community vote to move ahead with a

future project, the last property owner wanted far more than the Cooperative could afford (and nearly ten times the present market value of the property) to close the deal. Despite extensive negotiations spanning nearly six months, it was finally determined that the gap between what the property owner wanted for the property, and what the Cooperative could afford to expend was simply too great. And so last Thursday evening, at its regular meeting, the Board moved to suspend efforts at securing a site on Bois Bear Ridge and endorsed the search for a new windmill site on Big Mountain.

The impact of this delay on the start of the formal feasibility study has been unfortunate – but hopefully, not fatal. Much will depend on how quickly a new site can be negotiated with a new set of interested property owners. Big Mountain offers a higher elevation than Bois Bear Ridge and still affords a 2500 foot setback from the nearest island residence. However, the amount of road improvements necessary to reach the site appear to be more challenging – and are likely to be an expensive component of any future project. We will keep our members posted on our progress in this Newsletter and at Annual Meeting in July.

May, 2011

Town of Swans Island Notice:

There is now a 48 hour maximum parking time in the "back" line for the ferry. Please display the time and date of your anticipated departure in your vehicle window. Forms are available at the ticket office.

- ELECTRIC CO-OP OFFICE HOURS
- PHONE # 526-4336
- 7:30 AM TO 4:00 PM
- MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
- OFFICE MAY BE CLOSED BETWEEN 11:00 AM AND 12:00 PM FOR LUNCH.
- OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON HOLIDAYS.

AFTER HOUR

EMERGENCY

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