

SWANS ISLAND ELECTRIC COOP NEWSLETTER

From the Manager:

Now that the summer season has passed us by our focus has shifted to preparations for winter. Our line crew will begin this week on the installation of new conductors on the Atlantic Loop RD. When this job is complete it will eliminate the stretch of inaccessible poles (also old and in very bad condition) behind the former Atlantic Take Out. We will be approaching line contractors for pricing in to install new lines before the snow flies at the intersections of Ferry and Atlantic Roads and Atlantic and Stockbridge Hill Roads. We also plan to have a pole drilling contractor back for 1 week of installations later this year. The survey for the expanded easement at the ferry terminal and the design of the replacement substation are complete. We hope to have the easement finalized with the Maine DOT this year and undertake the work in 2013.

We are pleased to report that Jane Savage will be joining SIEC as our new billing clerk this month. Jane brings an excellent background to the job and the desire to help us continue to improve

In July we had visits from both the USDA Rural Utilities Service and Maine Public Utilities Commission. Both reps were pleased with our progress but will be pushing for further progress – most notably in the clearing of our rights of way to reduce line losses and documenting the policies that have been adopted by the Board over many years into a formal “Terms & Conditions of Service”.

We will be contracting out some building repairs to the SIEC office this fall. If any island carpenters are interested in pricing the work please contact Tom or Ralph.

The onset of winter also brings the end of some seasonal income sources. If any of our members expect to have trouble paying their electric bills please contact Tom now to review options allowed under our PUC regulations.

Finally, SIEC was featured in the CFC August national newsletter in an article entitled “Making It Happen“. It told our story of meeting challenges to improve our finances and replace infrastructure. Copies are available at the office. Send me an email at mcaloont@gmail.com for a PDF version.

From the Board:

Election of Board Officers has taken place and the slate of officers for the upcoming year are as follows:

President – Ed Schwabe

Vice President & Secretary – Jason Matthews

Treasurer – Jeffrey Ellison.

Our Annual Meeting in late July was a great success and six lucky members, whose names were drawn, received \$100 credit on their electric bills for the upcoming year.

We are grateful to the Island Institute for all their hard work and support which helped us complete our formal Wind Power Feasibility Study. The results of the Study can be viewed on the Town Website.

It appears that electricity prices from Bangor Hydro will be ticking up as we head into the winter months. Rates are due to increase by 2 cents per kilowatt hour by December and January – which is no real surprise since we have been enjoying unusually low rates this summer.

The big questions will

SEPT 2012

be, where will rates go when energy prices are bid for next spring and summer? will the oversupply of natural gas on the nation’s energy market continue to hold prices down?

During our next quarterly Community Update Meetings in early November, we will be discussing our progress in erecting new poles and lines along with the planned upgrades for our Substation at the Ferry Terminal. Also, we should be able to announce some progress in establishing a web page for our Electric Cooperative.

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

AFTER HOUR

EMERGENCY

NUMBERS:

TOM MCALOON

207-479-0657

STEVE GREEN

207-479-0658

BONNIE TURNER 526-4282