

FEBRUARY 2025

LINCOLN DINER JOINING COMMON MAN AND CO-OP FAMILIES

The Common Man family of restaurants is growing yet again. This spring the hospitality company plans to open the Lincoln Diner, its fourth 50's-style diner in New Hampshire. As it has for decades, the Co-op is working closely with Common Man founder Alex Ray and his construction partners to make it happen.

The centerpiece of the Lincoln project is a classic diner car that formerly served as Roger's Redliner Diner in Portsmouth and the Monarch Diner in Dover. Construction is underway on a building that attaches to the diner car and will house a kitchen, prep area and dining room.

Any business looking to break ground on a new facility should make the Co-op one of their first calls. A reliable electric connection is essential to your project's success. That's where we come in. In Lincoln, the Co-op's line design technicians and lineworkers worked with the project team to provide the crucial connections that will power the new diner. The Co-op also provided a discount on the cost of the connection, as it does with other commercial projects, as a way of stimulating economic development.

Jeff Downing, president of Conneston Construction, Inc., the project's lead contractor, said he appreciates his working relationship with the Co-op.



Common Man Owner & Founder Alex Ray celebrates the arrival of the soon-to-be Lincoln Diner, the CMan's fourth 50's style diner in New Hampshire.



The new Lincoln Diner will merge the old with the new to create a new dining option in Lincoln.

"We work with utilities on construction projects across the state. With New Hampshire Electric Co-op, when you call, you get a person to talk to," said Downing. "We've had to make some changes to the design and equipment for the diner and increase amp service. The Co-op has been very flexible working with us to make the changes."

Ray echoed Downing, calling the Co-op "an extremely reliable partner to work with."

"The Co-op has been fast at it for us on our diner project in Lincoln," he said. "They're working with other agencies along with our construction crew and have been flexible as changes have been made during the construction process."

An important part of the construction process is building energy efficiency into the plans. From new equipment to LED lighting, Downing says the Lincoln Diner is a "state-of-the-art efficient building."

The Lincoln Diner is located right next door to The Common Man Restaurant in Lincoln at 6 Pollard Road. Watch the Common Man Family website for opening date, hours, menu, and employment opportunities: thecman.com.

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NH BROADBAND: "YOU'LL SEE THE DIFFERENCE"



Carroll Levey left the eastern shore of Long Island and moved to New Hampshire in 1997 to buy an inn. What she and her husband, Marc, then a practicing endodontist, encountered was a different world. It would be some time before this new world met their technological needs.

"It was just so different from New York," said Carroll, explaining that one of her dreams was to open a BnB. On family vacations, they all fell in love with New Hampshire and found the "Live Free or Die" attitude really appealing. The tranquil lifestyle they embraced did present challenges for a small business owner in Meredith.

The internet was in its infancy when Carroll purchased the Nutmeg Inn, but rather than make work-life easier, the only internet options she had were limited, slow and just plain maddening.

"It was very frustrating with the old internet system because I was on the computer all the time. A lot of times I simply didn't have the internet or you'd be in the middle of a Zoom meeting and wham, there you go. You're out," Carroll said.

When NH Broadband arrived in Meredith, the Leveys, now retired, were ready. They use their WiFi to turn on the lights, appliances, tv and more using voice commands or an iPad.

"It's a whole different world out there. This is a great step forward into the future and once you try it, once you are using it, you'll see the difference," Carroll said.





BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPOTLIGHT

Three Questions with Alana Albee, NHEC Board Vice Chair and Audit Chair

Town: Tufonboro | Years on the Board: 5 ½

1 | What got you involved in the Co-op and then to run for a seat on the Board?

My initial interest in NHEC stemmed from a concern about why my 'member service charge' was so high even though my electricity consumption is modest. Joining the board helped me better understand that every NHEC member pays a portion of the wires, poles, and administration no matter how much they consume. So my challenge as a Board member became, how can we contain costs? Finding the best way to make sure members can afford services requires asking lots of questions; as a New Hampshire born and raised resident, I'm acutely aware not everyone can afford much, but everyone deserves essential services like electricity and internet access

2 | As a Director, what are you most proud of for the impact it's had on Co-op members?

There's no surprise here. I'm proud of how well we contain our business costs even during times of volatile prices. We work hard to keep electricity as affordable as possible, without compromising on reliability. It's a challenging balancing act but unlike other electric providers, we don't make a profit for shareholders. I'm proud of that. I'm also proud of our progress on our biggest challenge: bringing internet to underserved rural New Hampshire towns. We've been left out or left to a single cable company provider for too long in many areas. New Hampshire residents deserve choices of internet providers, just like folks in the city.

3 | Why is it important for members to stay informed and involved with the Co-op?

Because NHEC is a cooperative, you - the members, get to decide who is on the Board. You elect the Directors each June, so please vote for people who'll represent you. The Directors are responsible for the rates you pay for electricity and the resources that ensure reliability. It's a complicated business that deserves active business-minded Directors who know rural New Hampshire. And, if you have a concern or a complaint, come see us; we meet every month and there is a public session each time when you can tell us what you think.

MODEST RATE INCREASES BEGIN

TRANSMISSION COSTS ARE UP, CO-OP POWER COSTS DOWN

Rate changes approved by the Co-op's Board of Directors have resulted in a modest increase in monthly bills starting this month.

In January 2025, member bills increased 1.6 percent to support projects that improve service reliability. Beginning this month, another rate change increased monthly bills by an additional 1.6 percent. This increase is being fueled by a 30 percent increase in the Regional Access Charge (RAC) portion of your bill.

The RAC is a charge that pays for NHEC's access to the regional transmission grid. Transmission rates, the cost of transporting electricity to NHEC's distribution system, are set to rise significantly in New England in 2025. The RAC charge also includes a state-required refund of Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) proceeds.

The good news for members is the continuing decrease in the Co-op Power rate, the charge for the actual power you

use. The new Co-op Power rate of 8.108 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) is a six percent decrease from the current rate, making this the fifth consecutive decrease spanning three years. These rates will be in effect through July 31, 2025.

"Even small rate increases are unwelcome, but the Board of Directors believes the approved distribution and energy increases are reasonable and needed to continue providing reliable service to members," stated NHEC Board Chair Bill Darcy. "It is unfortunate that regional transmission costs over which NHEC has no control are increasing so much, but the staff and Board have made changes in other areas to keep rates for members affordable, especially when compared to other electric utilities in New Hampshire."

For more information about Co-op's rates, including a current schedule of rates, please visit our website: www.nhec.com/rates-tariffs.



HERBICIDE OPT-OUT FORM AVAILABLE NOW FOR 2025

Selective use of herbicides in NHEC's power line rights-of-way is an important part of our efforts to minimize power outages, but we know that some members would prefer not to have these treatments done on their property.

If you receive notice that NHEC will be using targeted herbicide treatments to maintain the rights-of-way on your property, you may opt out of treatments for the calendar year by submitting the form located on our website: WWW.NHEC.COM/HERBICIDE

To ensure that you opt out of treatments for 2025, please submit your form before the end of April, when herbicide treatments typically begin.