

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF KINCARDINE

Pier Safety Ad-Hoc Committee Minutes

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Members Present Councillor Rory Cavanagh, Chair
 Dr. Chris Houser
 Jim Cooper
 Kristin Beaton
 Matt Cottrill
 Rolf Jedemann
 Steve Schaus
 David Hackney

Members Absent Ash Adams

Staff Present Jayne Jagelewski
 Tracey Guy, Secretary

1. **Call to Order**

The Pier Safety Ad-Hoc Committee meeting of The Corporation of the Municipality of Kincardine was called to Order at 5:00 p.m. on January 11, 2024.

1.1 **Land Acknowledgment Statement**

The Chair opened the Meeting with the Land Acknowledgment Statement.

2. **Additions/Deletions/Amendments to the Agenda**

None.

3. **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

None disclosed.

4. **Adoption of Minutes**

4.1 **November 30, 2023**

Resolution # 01/11/23 PS - 01

Moved by: David Hackney

Seconded by: Jim Cooper

That the minutes of the Pier Safety Ad-Hoc Committee held on November 30, 2023 be adopted as printed.

Carried.

5. Business

5.1 Report to Council and Resolution - December 13, 2023

The Report and Council Resolution was provided for information. Director Jagelewski advised that both piers have been closed as per Council's request, until March 1, 2024.

It was highlighted that people were on both piers over the holidays, despite the closures.

5.2 Review of Public Comments

Chair Cavanagh provided comments from a member of the public for information.

The Committee thanked Ms. Brajuha for the comments, and will reach out to her group where possible in the process.

5.3 Discussion and Results

a. Pier Usage

Future usage of both piers was discussed. Included in the discussion was the following:

- both piers are an important landmark in Kincardine, they are used regularly by locals and visitors;
- temporary closures during winter months & inclement weather;
- permanent closures;
- keeping both piers open year round with warning signage;
- Lake Huron education;
- if either pier is closed, a permanent gate is needed, that is aesthetically pleasing;
- control measures are needed to make safer;
- allowing access during closures for specific activities such as surfing in high waves, would be difficult to regulate;
- benches not be placed on the piers;

- the south pier is in need of repair and poses tripping hazards;
- Smart Beach participation helps to warn users during inclement weather;
- concerns raised with lack of knowledgeable staff and capacity as it pertains to understanding hazards and administering a flag alert system, it would need to be monitored on a hourly/daily basis; and
- status quo to keep both piers permanently open year round should not be an option.

Chair Cavanagh noted that changes made now, may not have an immediate effect, but will affect future generations.

Resolution # 01/11/23 PS - 02

Moved by: Jim Cooper

Seconded by: Matt Cottrill

~~The Pier Safety Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee recommends that both piers remain open during the non-winter months, and the south pier be closed in the winter months from November 1 to March 31 each year;~~ Amended by Resolution 01/25/23 PS - 02

That the closures be re-evaluated in one year; and

Further, that the permanent closure gate be designed to be aesthetically pleasing.

Carried.

b. Parking Facilities

Restricting beach patrons from parking in the marina parking lot was discussed. Considerations such as permanent bollards to control traffic flow and parking be considered. Dividing the marina and beach parking was discussed, and be considered for a one year trial. Charging for parking and/or parking permits in the marina parking lot was considered.

c. Draft Proposal for Boardwalk

The draft proposal from the Consultant on the new boardwalk design was reviewed.

d. Signage

Signage was discussed to determine what information should be provided on the pier and the beach. Signage should also depict what you can and cannot do (ie. dogs, camping, etc.). It was also noted that signage needs to be situated in a position to be viewed from all angles and brightly coloured to be visible. The Bruce County Signage Strategy will be provided at the next meeting.

Resolution # 01/11/23 PS - 03

Moved by: Rory Cavanagh

Seconded by: Jim Cooper

That the Pier Safety Ad-Hoc Committee recommends that in the short term, the following be added:

- That the lifesaving stations be increased from 2 to 4;
- That the perimeter of the surfacing of the piers, be painted bright yellow; and
- That enhanced signage be installed to reflect use at own risk and the 911 address.

Carried.

e. Beach Access Points

Consideration on beach access points and signage was discussed. It was suggested that the public beach access and swimming area be moved away from the marina. Director Jagelewski advised that currently there are many access points to the beach, including undesignated paths. It was determined that formalized paths with signage is needed, with an extension to the non-swimming zone with bright visible signage.

Resolution # 01/11/23 PS - 04

Moved by: Kristin Beaton

Seconded by: Jim Cooper

That the Pier Safety Ad-Hoc Committee recommends that the north end of the new boardwalk have a viewing platform, and no exit onto the beach; and

That the dunes be extended to enhance a dynamic beach effect that limits users of the beach, accessing the north end of Station Beach; and

Further, that the 'no-swimming' zone located south of the south pier be increased to 200 metres with clear and appropriate signage.

Carried.

f. Beach Patrol

Consideration for beach patrols was discussed.

Resolution # 01/11/23 PS - 05

Moved by: Matt Cottrill

Seconded by: Kristin Beaton

That the Pier Safety Advisory Ad-Hoc Committee recommend that the Municipality of Kincardine consider a Beach Blazer Program on a one year volunteer basis, in collaboration with other Community Partners; and

Also, that the beach education program be expanded.

Carried.

g. Ladders

It was determined that additional ladders are needed on both piers for safety. A list of the existing ladders and their condition is needed, to determine how many additional ladders are necessary.

The installation of modular ladders was discussed. The Committee requested a representative from LifeLadder Modular Ladder Company attend the next meeting.

h. Blue Flag

The current status of the Blue Flag program was discussed. Director Jagelewski noted that based on previous experience, it is best to follow the principals of the Blue Flag Program, but not apply for designation as a Blue Flag Beach, and Dr. Houser concurred. The Committee will review the requirements/principals of the Blue Flag Beach Program prior to the next meeting. No decision was made at this time.

6. **Outstanding Business**

None.

7. **Schedule of Meetings**

7.1 **January 25, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.**

8. **Adjournment**

Resolution # 01/11/23 PS - 06

Moved by: Matt Cottrill

Seconded by: Kristin Beaton

That the Pier Safety Ad-Hoc Committee adjourn at 7:00 p.m.

Carried.

Chair

Secretary