

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF KINCARDINE

Pier Safety Ad-Hoc Committee Minutes

Thursday, January 25, 2024

Members Present Councillor Rory Cavanagh, Chair
 Jim Cooper
 Kristin Beaton
 Matt Cottrill
 Rolf Jedemann
 Kent Padfield
 David Hackney

Members Absent Ash Adams
 Dr. Chris Houser

Staff Present Jayne Jagelewski
 Tracey Guy, Secretary

5. Delegations

5.1 **Michael Hebb, LifeLadder**

Michael Hebb, Vice President, Sales from GRIFFIN Engineered Systems gave a presentation on the LifeLadder systems. The LifeLadder is constructed of reinforced plastic modules in a UV-resistant bright yellow colour. The construction combines the flexibility of a rope ladder with the rigidity of an ordinary marine ladder; sections are tied together by synthetic ropes held apart by rubber spacers. The modular concept contributes to improvements in sustainability, as damages only involves replacing broken sections rather than the entire ladder. They also offer a LED light at the top of the ladder for an additional fee. The ladder is straightforward to install, remove, and replace sections. They recommend the length go a minimum of 1 meter in the water, and can stop at the top of the pier, or continue further, to allow for easy egress.

The Committee confirmed the following questions or comments:

- Confirmed the ladder can be secured to the pier, with a welded plate or bracket to affix the ladder to;
- Confirmed when a new section of ladder is replaced, rope for the entire ladder is provided;

- Confirmed the average life span of a ladder and rope is 20 years;
- It was recommended to have thorough inspections in the spring and fall, with staff checking on them with regular patrols;
- It was recommended to have spare ladder sections and rope on hand, so when a ladder section gets damaged, replacement is quick;
- Confirmed the ladder can withhold extreme weather of cold or heat. They have ladders in cold climates such as Norway and Sweden, and hot climates such as Australia and New Zealand;
- Confirmed this is a new ladder to Canada, however many ladders have been installed all over the world;
- Confirmed the LED light shines downward towards the ladder, and does not affect navigation lighting at night;
- Confirmed the LED light can be powered by solar or AC power and the batteries typically last 10 years;
- Confirmed the Company sells the product but do not install. They can work with a local construction company, if staff are not available to install;
- Confirmed the ladder can extend beyond the recommended 1 metre into the water, it is the customer's preference on how many sections they purchase.
- The Committee requested the maximum weight capacity of the LifeLadders. **Update:** Mr. Hebb confirmed by email dated 2024-01-29 that the LifeLadders can hold up to 1 ton of weight.

The Director suggested members watch the installation videos.

7. Business

7.1 Signage Strategy

The Bruce County Signage Strategy was provided for information. The Director noted that any signs installed will conform with the Signage Strategy.

7.2 Blue Flag Program

The Committee reviewed the principals of the Blue Flag Program and agreed it is best to follow the principals of the Blue Flag Program, but not apply for an official designation.

7.3 Draft Report

The Director presented the first draft of the Committee Report, which will be presented to Council.

The Committee discussed the previous motion closing one pier in the wintertime. If the piers are to remain open year-round, education and signage be important components of the report.

It was also noted that a complete assessment of the existing ladders and their state-of-repair is required, in order to determine how many additional ladders will be recommended, and where they will be placed. Also, the option to phase in the installation of ladders plus additional safety equipment was discussed.

Recommended changes were forwarded to the Director, and she will update the report and circulate to the Committee members to review prior to the next meeting.

Resolution # 01/25/23 PS - 02

Moved by: Rory Cavanagh

Seconded by: Kent Padfield

That Resolution 01/11/23 PS - 02 is hereby rescinded; and

That both piers remain open year-round with appropriate signage and education, which will be outlined in the Report.

Carried.

10. Adjournment

Resolution # 01/25/23 PS - 03

Moved by: Jim Cooper

Seconded by: Matt Cottrill

That the Pier Safety Ad-Hoc Committee adjourn at 6:44 p.m.

Carried.

Chair

Secretary