



Report to Council

Department: Community Services
Division: Community Services
Date: June 3, 2024
Prepared by: Jake Morassut, Director, Community Services
Report Number: Community Services-2024-22
Subject: Colchester Safety Audit Council Update
Number of Pages: 4

Recommendation(s)

That Community Services-2024-22 entitled Colchester Safety Audit Council Update, prepared by Jake Morassut, Director, Community Services, dated June 3, 2024, be received.

Purpose

To provide Council an update from resolution R23-06-259, being direction for Administration to complete a comprehensive safety audit of Colchester Beach and waterfront by the Lifesaving Society and further develop a safety plan based on the findings from the consultant.

Background and Discussion

At the June 19, 2023, Regular Council Meeting, Councillor Matyi brought forward a notice of motion indicating that he wants to see the Colchester Beach receive a comprehensive safety audit which will guide administration on ways to ensure beach safety is increased.

Administration worked with the Lifesaving Society in 2023 to go over operations, policies/procedures, capital plans, resources, staffing, water testing, and the environment, amongst other topics. Through these discussions, the Lifesaving Society consultants developed a report outlining their findings.

The full results of the findings and details are contained in the attached report, with the below information a summary of the results:

Priority Concerns

1. Designate a safe swimming area: Must clearly identify the appropriate swimming areas through signs, buoy lines, buoy markers or any combination of these.
 - Staff to reinstall buoy in the water area to notify boating traffic to stay away.
 - Staff to create a sign which includes a map showing where the permitted swimming areas are located.
2. Install lifesaving stations in designated areas: there is a need to ensure the public has access to rescue equipment, should it be necessary, as these resources may be needed to perform a rescue and not entering the water.
 - Staff to install lifesaving equipment along the beach, which includes a life ring, reaching pole, and appropriate signage.

Primary Recommendations

1. Revise the current beach signage: The recommendation is to provide additional signage at access points, which includes at the entrance to the pier to identify potential for rough water conditions and winter hazards due to icing.
 - Staff to install appropriately worded signage at the top of the main stairs, the accessible ramp, and at the base of the boat launch.
 - Staff to install appropriately worded signage at the start of the pier to indicate the potential for rough water conditions and potential icing during winter months.

2. Conduct a Safety Review of Public Access to the Pier: There is a lack of signage warning visitors not to go onto the rocks along the pier.
 - Staff to add signage to the area indicating the warnings of rough water, ice, and permitted fishing areas.
 - Staff to investigate the cost for a railing to prevent people from going on the rocks.
3. Enhance Beach Signage: Due to the potential height of waves, signage should include that rip currents are possible and educate the public on rip currents.
 - Staff to add rip current information to signage.
4. Ensure frequent lake water testing is completed and posted: Ensure that frequent water testing is done and post the results publicly at the beach and online.
 - Staff to post weekly water testing results at the kiosk so the public can view.

Secondary Recommendations

1. Install beach map signage: Beach maps should be installed at each access point, which includes location of safe swimming area, the number of swimming areas, AED locations, and emergency telephone location.
 - Staff to amend signage to include the above information.
2. Provide lifesaving station rescue equipment logs: Lifesaving stations should be checked and maintained regularly and documented in a logbook. This is to include beach raking.
 - Staff to implement a documentation process for safety station checks and beach raking. Any corrective actions are to be documented and rectified.

The administrative team has been working on these recommendations for implementation.

Financial Impact

At this time, there is no expectation that there will be any additional budget required for the implementation of the requirements. Administration will continue to utilize the approved Town of Essex Parks and Facilities operating budget.

Consultations

Rodney Klie, Manager, Parks and Facilities

Vince Murphy, Assistant Manager, Parks and Facilities

Kate Giurissevich, Director, Corporate Services/Treasurer

Link to Strategic Priorities

- ☒ Embrace asset management best practices to build, maintain, and continuously improve our municipally owned infrastructure.
- ☐ **Leverage our Town's competitive advantages to promote jobs and economic investment.**
- ☒ Take care of our natural environment and strengthen the sense of belonging to everyone **who makes Essex "home"**.
- ☒ Deliver friendly customer service in an efficient, effective, and transparent manner while providing an exceptional working environment for our employees.
- ☐ Build corporate-level and community-level climate resilience through community engagement and partnership and corporate objectives.

Report Approval Details

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|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Document Title: | Colchester Safety Audit Council Update - Community Services-2024-22.docx |
| Attachments: | - 92msapTownofEssex_ComprehensiveAuditFINALDec 19.pdf |
| Final Approval Date: | May 28, 2024 |

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kate Giurissevich". The script is cursive and fluid.

Kate Giurissevich, Director, Corporate Services - May 27, 2024 - 2:31 PM

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Sweet". The script is cursive and fluid.

Doug Sweet, Chief Administrative Officer - May 28, 2024 - 10:15 AM