

SHEARWATER CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION

Landscaping Committee Report

January 2014

1. Frances Higgins is evaluating the possibility of separately metering the water used in the irrigation system. Cost comparisons are being made and she will keep the Board updated on the issue.
2. The 17 Leyland Cypress that were planted near the pool fence have been taken down; there were several reasons for this decision:
 - The report issued by the pool management company at the end of the 2013 season indicated that these trees were dropping twigs and sap into the pool, causing the filters to require cleaning multiple times a day
 - The trees were planted in a straight line 1-2 feet apart, which is much too close for a tree that has such a wide spread (~ 15 ft)
 - They were also planted within 1-2 feet of the pool fence, and based on the aerial photo, extended over that fence all the way to the pool edge
 - The trees had to be pruned a year ago at a cost of \$1000-2000, and because of their growth rate, would require continual pruning every 1-2 years going forward
 - The bottom branches of half the trees were dead
 - Because the Leyland Cypress has a shallow root system, there was an increasing risk that they would fall or be blown over and damage the cars in the parking lot, the fence or the pool.
3. Since this area is close to the Chesapeake Bay watershed, it falls within the Buffer Management System and any tree replacement requires review & approval by the City of Annapolis Planning Division. After two months of discussions, the Planning Division approved the plan to remove the Leyland Cypress and replace them with 15 Emerald Green Arborvitae 6-8 ft tall. The considerations:
 - That quantity of this tree met the canopy requirements
 - The Emerald Green Arborvitae is a smaller, hedge-type evergreen that won't require pruning, has little risk of falling over, and will be more easily maintained (minimal or no requirement for pruning)
 - It remains green throughout the year (unlike some evergreens that turn brown in winter)
 - The cost estimate received from Highlands falls within the budget amount available from the Landscape Committee; so no Board review will be required