

## Shearwater Grounds and Landscape Report June, 2005

Tree Trimming: Bartlett Tree Experts performed spring tree trimming and removal on 20 May. The fire-damaged Deodora cedar at the entrance was pruned of dead branches. Branches overhanging Bldgs 15 and 16 were cut back away from the buildings. Two decayed pine trees were cut down from the Dog Walk area. These trees constituted a safety hazard as well as being an eye sore. Some minor tree work remains to be accomplished and will be the responsibility of Andinos.

Owner Request: Andino's crew spent an entire day removing weeds from pathways, flower beds and steps leading to the piers. What has not yet been accomplished is the replacement of dead azaleas at Bldg 5 and removal of trees at the townhouse and at 13A. Also, Andino has not yet planted flowers at the outside entrance or in the large flower pot at the entrance. I have discussed these items with Mr. Andino again and he has promised to complete these tasks this week. He has had some serious family problems and his response has slowed as a result. He assures me that those are behind him and he is in a position to be as responsive as he has been in the past.

Drainage Problem: The solution proposed by Andinos to correct the townhouse drainage problem has been approved and work is scheduled to begin next week. The drainage problem in front of Bldgs 7/8 cannot be funded at this time, but I expect to be able to approve it after 1 July, the beginning of the next fiscal year.

Sycamore Trees: I have received a proposal from Sigma Engineering to prepare a mitigation plan to remove the existing sycamore trees on the water side of Bldgs 15/16, to submit those plans to the City of Annapolis Planning and Zoning, to address agency comments, to resubmit plans as required and to coordinate approval. The cost for these services is \$2,800. It is nearly impossible to estimate the chances of success, but I recommend that the Board approve this expenditure because the alternative of doing nothing is simply not acceptable because the situation will get progressively worse if the trees are allowed to grow without any pruning or cutting back. Another course of action could be to have our attorney make the case that the City does not have jurisdiction over this property because it is private property not public land. Fred Sussman researched this several months ago for us and has a file that I have asked him to review. It may be that we will want to proceed on both courses simultaneously although I suspect that filing a suit would definitely kill any possibility of reaching an agreement with the City on replacing the Sycamore trees under a new landscape plan. I recommend we proceed with development of a plan, determine if we can reach an acceptable accommodation with the City, and use the legal recourse only as a last resort in the event we are unable to settle the matter using a new landscape plan.