

## **Shearwater Grounds and Landscaping Committee Report October 2014**

### **Update on landscaping evaluation and planning**

Development of a landscaping master plan is still underway. Targeted for delivery in the spring of 2015, it will state our goals and objectives, identify our assets, recommend ongoing maintenance practices, and propose future improvements that are consistent with our goals for a beautiful, healthy, sustainable landscape and shoreline.

### **Landscaping Committee Procedures**

We are looking forward to meeting with the new property management company to formalize procedures for identifying and addressing landscaping issues. As always, we encourage members of the community to come forward with their ideas and concerns. Send ideas/requests to:

Deborah Birch

Email: [dbirch@seagreenintl.com](mailto:dbirch@seagreenintl.com)

Mobile/Text: 202-629-6035

### **Status of Irrigation System**

The sprinkler system will be winterized on Thursday, October 23.

### **Update on large tree issues and recommendations for immediate action**

- ❖ At the last Board meeting, the Landscaping Committee presented a plan to address the following tree conditions that had been identified through meetings with several certified arborists and with members of the Shearwater community:
  - Major trees adjacent Buildings 15 and 16 that are dead or dying and must be removed as they pose imminent risk and liability.
  - Other trees that are dead or dying and must be removed as they pose probable risk and liability, and trees whose proper maintenance is critical to the interests of members of the Shearwater community at large.
  - Trees that pose possible risk to property or that require repair or maintenance in order to stay healthy and preserve the integrity of our landscape. This includes trees with splits, breakage or insect infestation, trees that overhang our parking areas, and trees whose branches touch our buildings.
  - Trees that impact our views or trees that have reached the end of their useful life but do not pose significant risk. Unfortunately, most of these trees are in the Critical Area Buffer regulated by the City, County and State governments. Work in these areas requires approval of a Critical Area Buffer Management Plan. We need time to design a solution that will be accepted by the governing parties.
- ❖ We provided a preliminary estimate of \$20,000 to cover the Scope of Work we had developed, and reported that we were awaiting formal proposals from two companies who had served Shearwater in the past: Bartlett Tree Experts and Bartlett Tree Experts and Davey Tree Expert Company.

- ❖ **The Board unanimously approved a motion to approve a special budget not to exceed \$17.000 to address all needed tree work on the condition that the Landscape Committee obtain a third competitive bid, negotiate contracts based on all tree work and present recommendations to the Board for contract approval. It was agreed that the selection of a vendor will not be determined by cost only, and that the Landscape Committee will make their recommendation based on a long term solution to protect the health/value of Shearwater trees/landscape.**
- ❖ Over the past month, we have obtained two additional bids, from Brickman Group, recommended by Brodie Management, and from CKA, a contractor used by the City of Annapolis. We have also discussed permitting procedures with the City of Annapolis arborists responsible for permitting work within and without the Critical Buffer Area.
- ❖ The Landscaping Committee met on Sunday and selected the low bidder, Davey Tree Company, as our first choice. Their price is reasonable and we have worked with them before. We have contacted them and will be working with them to negotiate a contract which provides best value for the Shearwater community. Our second choice is CKA Tree experts, who provided the second lowest bid and whose knowledge impressed us.

Submitted by:

Deborah Birch  
Chair, Shearwater Landscaping Committee  
October 21, 2014