

Willowbrook training center proposal aired at community meeting

Port Richmond residents had no objection last night to the Willowbrook Developmental Center's latest proposal for making training and community services available to de-institutionalized center residents, according to Thomas LaManna, chairman of Community Board 1.

Currently, the center is considering two Port Richmond sites as locations for the community service branch of a larger training and service program, Elin Howe, center director, told members of the board's Port Richmond area committee during a meeting in the Port Richmond home of Diane Carducci.

Miss Howe discussed the former Pantry Pride store on Forest Ave., Port Richmond, as a possible site at last night's meeting. Last week, she met with members of the board's Westerleigh-Castleton Corners committee to discuss another proposed site, the former Robert Hall store, also on Forest Ave., Port Richmond.

In December, the Port Richmond area committee vigorously opposed Willowbrook's plan to establish a training and community service center for de-institutionalized residents in the former Garber Bros. store on Richmond Ave., Port Richmond.

That opposition, which Miss Howe termed "a less than acceptable experi-

ence," led Willowbrook not to pursue any other proposals until last night's meeting, she added.

Since December, Willowbrook officials have said that they are considering dividing the training and service program into facilities within each of the Island's three community boards, instead of housing the entire program in a large building like the former Garber Bros. store.

Miss Howe said that negotiations with owners of the Robert Hall building had not yet begun.

LaManna said the program proposed for either of the Port Richmond sites would be staffed by about 40 persons and would serve persons living or planning to reside in the Board 1 area. Most program clients would be served in their homes, he said, although there would be approximately 90 client visits to the center monthly.

The Port Richmond and Westerleigh-Castleton Corners area committees will submit reports for board consideration at the regular meeting next Tuesday.