

Board 3 approves 13 sites as possible homes for retarded

By DOUGLAS PATRICK

Community Board 3 approved 13 sites on the South Shore as potential group homes for the retarded at its meeting last night in Messiah Lutheran Church hall, Annadale.

Eight of the sites, which will house 80 persons, will be chosen by the state Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities as part of its efforts to return all but 250 profoundly handicapped Willowbrook center residents to their hometowns by 1981.

Discussing each proposed site separately, board members eliminated four sites because they were too close to a residential area or the existing structure was considered too small to properly facilitate the maximum number of 10 residents for each group home, as well as room for staff members.

The board had compiled, with the help of the Department of Mental Hygiene and the City Planning Commission, a list of 40 sites for public consideration, including existing buildings and vacant lots on which group homes could be built.

During a public hearing conducted

two weeks ago by the board, many of the initial sites were eliminated because they were taken off the market by owners or residents successfully voiced objections to group homes in their neighborhoods.

Ten of the sites approved last night are vacant lots and two include existing structures. A state official said last night after the board's recommendations were announced that it was unlikely more than about three group homes could be constructed in the area because of a shortage of time and money.

"While the evaluation procedure has not been started yet, I think it's highly unlikely that six group homes, for instance, would be constructed in this area," said Edward Matthews, assistant director of resource development for the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

He estimated only "several" group homes could be constructed on vacant lots and said an existing structure might be converted into, the first group home

within approximately four months.

The sites that were approved included a 100-by-100-foot lot at the corner of Finlay St. and Hylan Blvd., Tottenville; a 100-by-125-foot lot at Carteret St. and Hylan Blvd., Tottenville; 750 Page Ave., Tottenville; a 108-by-125-foot lot on Amboy Rd., adjacent to Mount Loretto property, Richmond Valley; a 133-by-169-foot lot on Bayview Ave. between Amboy Rd. and the railroad track in Pleasant Plains; and 51 Wilbur St.,

Princes Bay.

Also, a 100-by-100-foot lot at Albourne and Addison Sts., Huguenot; a 100-by-100-foot lot bounded by South Railroad Ave., Amboy Rd., and Dan St., Huguenot; a 80-by-100-foot lot on Charleston St., near the West Shore Expressway, Charleston; 6 Ainsworth Ave., Great Kills; a 220-by-280-foot parcel on Amboy Rd. by Poillon Ave., Annadale; one of five connecting lots bounded by Ionia Ave., Guyon Ave. and Hylan Blvd., Oakwood; and one or more of seven adjacent lots on Mill Rd. near Prominard

St., Oakwood.

Board members voted to reject either the 100-by-100-foot parcel on South Railroad Ave., Amboy Rd. and Dan St. in Huguenot or the 220-by-280-foot parcel in Annadale because the sites are located within five blocks of each other. The board said no more than one group home may be located in each community.

In other action, the board recommended the Poillon Ave. wetlands area, which contains Blue Heron Pond, be preserved as a freshwater wetland. The

board suggested that a teaching center be set up in the area by the High Rock Conservation Center.

The board voiced its support of an amendment by Councilman Anthony Giacobbe to the city's zoning laws, which calls for tougher regulations concerning microwave radiation.

It approved a recommendation to demap a proposed network of streets on the north side of Arthur Kill Rd., which encompasses Glencoe and Vinton Sts., in order to facilitate the construction of sewers in that portion of Great Kills.