

Board 3 mulls OK for retardates' home

By BILL FARRELL

The fate of a proposed group home in Annadale for eight retarded children will be decided at the regular meeting of Community Board 3 tonight at Richmond Memorial Hospital.

The home, which would be run jointly by the state and the Staten Island Aid for Retarded Children, would house four adolescents from the area and four from Willowbrook.

Testimony at a lengthy public hearing Thursday night, at the board's Johnston Terrace offices, however, appeared to put implementation of the proposal in serious trouble.

More than 100 area residents appeared at the

meeting, but just two spoke—Randy Lee, an Island attorney hired by the civic group to protest the establishment of the home at 72 Ionia Ave., and Joan Hodum of Staten Island Aid.

Lee listed numerous errors in the site report that the state had turned over to the community board when the request for the home was first made.

Those included discrepancies in the report regarding the sanitary and heating systems that would be used.

"The report said the house had a sewer system, when in fact the house is in a septic area," said Lee. "In fact, that area has a well-documented history of failing septic systems."

Lee also pointed out that changes would have to be made on the building that would require zoning

and building variances. The house is also on a deadend street and the lack of parking and access for emergency buildings was also questioned.

"It just was not a good site," said Lee.

If the board does approve the site, Joan Hodum of Staten Island Aid, said that her group also would have to take a second look at that site.

"There were a number of questions raised at that meeting that we are going to have to look into ourselves," said Hodum. "Not only were those issues a cause of concern for the residents, but we are worried about these problems as well."

If the board does not approve the site, it will have 15 days to find an alternate site or there will be another hearing.