

Board 3 OKs group home for

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Community Board 3 has recommended that the state approve a controversial proposal to open a group home for retarded adults in a two-family house in Annadale.

The approval — which came in a 35-0 vote, with one abstention — is conditional, pending results of tests and inspections to determine the efficiency of the septic tank system and whether drainage ditches on the grounds present a health hazard. Also, the board said Staten Island Aid for the Retarded, a nonprofit agency which is to run the home, must build a fence around the property.

The measure passed with little discussion at the meeting, held Tuesday night in Richmond

Memorial Hospital. Community boards have 40 days from the time a group home proposal is announced to recommend approval or rejection of a site. The recommendation is passed on to the state Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, which must now make the final decision on the location.

Protesters have complained that the house at 825 Woodrow Rd. lacks adequate septic tank and drainage systems. Neighbors in the immediate vicinity also were upset because the building is situated too close to other homes and lacks a yard large enough for the eight residents who will be in the building.

Many participants at a public hearing June 20 complained that

the Community Board had announced the proposal only six days earlier, giving them little time to examine it. But Stanley Buraczynski Jr., outgoing chairman of the board's Human Resources Committee, said the board wasn't notified by Staten Island Aid until June 7 and wanted to act before adjourning for the summer. The next board meeting is not scheduled until September.

At Tuesday night's meeting, Buraczynski introduced the motion to recommend approval of the site "based on our meeting with SIA (Staten Island Aid), information obtained at the public hearing on June 20 and a site visit by members of the board and the Human Resources Committee."

After the vote, the board passed a motion which requires that every agency proposing to start a group home be asked to notify residents in the immediate vicinity of the plan.

Six men and two women would live in the Staten Island Aid home, supervised by one to three staff workers at all times, according to the agency. The home would be leased for an undisclosed length of time and rent. Residents of the home would spend six hours a day, five days a week attending Staten

the retarded

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