

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

Page 42

Island Aid programs, according to agency staff. At other times, they would be involved in organized activities in the home, outings in local parks and other activities.

In other action, the board opposed a recent state Department of Environmental Conservation decision to grant a permit to build a sewage pipe to the developer of Surfside Village — formerly Point East Condominiums — in Tottenville. It approved a motion requesting the builder, Richard Brody of Willowbrook, and other builders, to make sure that all sanitary sewer lines empty at least 500 feet into the Raritan Bay. The distance would be measured from the shoreline at low tide.

"If a pipe is allowed to be laid

less than 500 feet, the people (of Staten Island) will forfeit the right to improve that beach for all time, and the area 500 feet in each direction will also be condemned," said Lou Figurelli, a board member.

Brody submitted a map to the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) April 26 showing a pipe that would run from a tertiary sewer treatment plant on the development site near Sprague Avenue to the Joline Avenue Beach in Tottenville. The pipe on the map would be only 265 feet long, as measured from the center of Surf Avenue, a street which runs along the water, to the point of discharge in the water, Figurelli said.

He and other members of the

board's environmental committee claimed that the developer's map was inaccurate and that according to the scale on the map, the pipe wasn't measured from the shoreline at low tide, didn't go far enough into the Raritan Bay, and wouldn't be submerged at all times.

The DEC issued a permit last month approving that plan and requiring that the pipe be extended into the water so that it is submerged at all times. But it did not specify that the pipe extend 500 feet into the water.

The board also complained that the DEC should have consulted with board members before issuing the permit.

The DEC usually consults with the board before issuing permits of this sort, Figurelli said.

Page 2
1 of 2