

Site inappropriate for development

The following was sent to Assemblywoman Elizabeth Connelly and James Walsh, director of the Staten Island Development Center:

"Your championship of the disabled is usually much appreciated and welcomed. But in your determination to place group homes in the Corson Brook woodlands both of you have done a terrible disservice to the disabled.

"If you had looked for another location the group home could already be under construction at the Staten Island Developmental Center without all the arguing and unnecessary fighting which has come from your trying to sneak these group homes into an area both of you know was included in the Greenbelt plan. What is the point of all of these studies, reports and hearings if state leaders won't listen?

"Shame on you both for attacking the Advance editorial. Apparently neither of you bothered to read a previous editorial: 'There should be room for both these points.' That editorial explained there is room for both group homes and saving this beautiful area. It said 'the state should make every accommodation to spare the area from being destroyed, even slightly ... On Staten Island, as elsewhere, accommodations must be made for a variety of interests. In this instance, the need for group homes is compelling, but not so compelling or immediate to justify the proposed encroachment into Corson's Brook.'

"You have had all the time since April to be reasonable and look for another location. Instead, you have forced everyone into a fight over this because you have ignored all the studies, reports, the Advance editorial, and the visits and tours of city officials last spring.

"If you had done your job and told Commissioner Webb what was really going on, the badly needed group homes could be being built right now in a suitable location at SIDC."

JAMES F. MARONEY
Grant City