

Judith Berger, another member of the Protectors, argued that "there are only two botanic treasure houses on Staten Island, and Corson's Brook Woods is one of them. It must be protected. It is not unreasonable for the state to contribute that 40 acres to the Greenbelt."

Other presentations last night included:

- Several endorsements for a proposal by the Staten Island Regional Retardation and Disabilities Council, which wants recreational and residential facilities for the handicapped.

"We need homes for the mentally retarded on this Island," said Thomas Prisco, father of a mentally retarded son. "Our (handicapped) sons and daughters are being shipped out of state because they have no where else to go, and it's got to stop. We should come first — our handicapped children."

- A request to preserve Willowbrook ball fields now being used by local sports teams.

"We should be given some consideration ... Please, when you decide what is to be done with the property, don't forget us," said Berry Pearlstein, of the Middle Island Youth Baseball League and the Mid Island Sports Group Softball League.

A representative of the New Springville Little League said its ball fields are included in the 90 acres being retained by the state and asked the state to redraw its lines, or for nine or 10 acres to relocate elsewhere on the property.

- A request by Staten Island Animal Welfare for a building to house stray animals.

A representative from the organization said the building would help alleviate the dearth of animal shelters on Staten Island. She added that the organization could use the building and its animals as a base for an animal therapy program for senior citizens and the handicapped.

- A request by the Staten Island Horsemen Association for a show area for its operation.

- A request by Moishe Friederwitzer of the Alzheimer's

Disease and Related Disorders Association for a respite center. The center would serve families who need someone to care for an Alzheimer's victim while the family is on vacation or temporarily unable to provide care.

- A request by Young Israel of Staten Island and the Island Jewish Community Center for land to build senior citizen housing, recreational facilities for youths and a group home for the mentally retarded.

Egan said the task force will meet within the month to review the proposals and form its recommendations for Gov. Mario M. Cuomo. Egan said he expects to have a report to the governor by April 1.

"My sense at the moment is that the governor might want to personally come down here" after he gets the report to hold another public hearing, Egan said. "That's the kind of person he is."



William Counihan, Dongan Hills Civic Association, makes a point during the hearing.

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