



Gov. Mario M. Cuomo discusses the controversy over the Corson's Brook Woods with Edmund Murphy of Community Board 2 at the state Institute for Basic Research in Willowbrook.

S.I. Advance Photo by Steve Zaffarano

Cuomo joins woods debate

Gov. Mario M. Cuomo stepped into the middle of the Corson's Brook Woods controversy yesterday when he visited the site and spent an hour standing in a parking lot while debating the merits of a proposal to build four group homes in the valued woodlands.

Announcing, "We're honing in on the truth here," Cuomo asked pointed questions of both supporters and opponents of the group home proposal and promised to study the issue.

About 35 people — including city and Staten Island officials,

members of the Protectors of Pine Oak Woods, a local environmental group, and advocates for the handicapped — met with Cuomo in the parking lot of the state Institute for Basic Research in Mental Retardation, Willowbrook, which adjoins Corson's Woods.

With Cuomo were two of his commissioners — Arthur Webb of the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, the agency that wants to build the group homes, and

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