

Reargument is denied on group homes

An appeals court has denied an ecology group's request to be allowed to reargue the court's earlier decision on Corson's Brook Woods.

The Appellate Division of the state Supreme Court in May overturned a ruling by a judge in the Supreme Court, St. George, that granted a preliminary injunction temporarily barring the state from removing additional trees and vegetation to make way for group homes for mentally retarded residents from the Staten Island Developmental Center, Willowbrook.

The environmental group, the Protectors of Pine Oak Woods, seeking to preserve the wooded area, moved to reargue the case after the Appellate Division ruled in favor of the state.

A public hearing on the issue is scheduled for July 1 at 7 p.m. at the Institute for Basic Research in Mental Retardation, on Forest Hill Road, Willowbrook.

The Corson's Brook site along Forest Hill Road in Willowbrook was reportedly selected by the state for group homes because the 40-acre tract is already state-owned and it adjoins a residential community.

A recently released state-funded report says the planned construction of the homes in the area would have minimal impact on the environment and would cost the state less in terms of overall construction costs when compared to the price tag for building such housing at other proposed locations.